

Volume 1

Pages 1 - 144

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Before The Honorable James Donato, Judge

IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE )  
ANTITRUST LITIGATION ) NO. 21-md-02981-JD  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Epic Games, Inc. vs. Google LLC, et al., )  
Case No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

In Re Google Play Consumer Antitrust )  
Litigation, Case No. 3:20-cv-05761-JD )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

State of Utah, et al. v. Google LLC, )  
et al., Case No. 3:21-cv-05227-JD )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Match Group, LLC, et al. vs. Google LLC, )  
et al., Case No. 3:22-cv-02746-JD )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

San Francisco, California  
Thursday, January 12, 2023

**TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN RE EVIDENTIARY HEARING ON CHAT PRESERVATION**

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1:05 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

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**THE CLERK:** Calling Civil 20-5671, Epic Games, Inc. vs. Google LLC; Civil 20-5761, In Re Google Play Consumer Antitrust Litigation; Civil 21-5227, State of Utah vs. Google; Multidistrict Litigation 21-2981, In Re Google Play Antitrust Litigation; and Civil 22-2746, Match Group LLC vs. Google.

Counsel, please state your appearances for the record.

**MR. BORNSTEIN:** Your Honor, Gary Bornstein.

**THE CLERK:** I need -- I'm going to need --

**THE COURT:** Oh. Microphone, please.

**THE CLERK:** Counsel, please use the microphone.

**MR. BORNSTEIN:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Gary Bornstein for Epic Games.

**MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Lauren Moskowitz, also for Epic.

**MS. WEINSTEIN:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Lauren Weinstein, the State of Utah Attorney General's Office, on behalf of the State of Utah and the plaintiff states.

**MR. GLACKIN:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Brendan Glackin for the states.

**MS. GIULIANELLI:** Good afternoon. Karma Giulianelli for the consumers.

**THE CLERK:** Counsel in the back, come forward and use the

1 microphone.

2 **MR. BYARS:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. John Byars from  
3 Bartlit Beck for consumer plaintiffs.

4 **MR. SUMMERS:** Also Glen Summers of Bartlit Beck for the  
5 consumer plaintiffs.

6 **MR. DIXON:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Doug Dixon of  
7 Hueston Hennigan for Match Group LLC.

8 **MS. NAM:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Hae Sung Nam for  
9 the consumer plaintiffs.

10 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Good afternoon, Your Honor. Glen  
11 Pomerantz of Munger, Tolles & Olson on behalf of defendants.  
12 And with me is my colleague Jonathan Kravis of our firm. Also,  
13 Mr. Phil Nickels is sitting up front there. He's going to be  
14 running the technology on our side.

15 And we apologize. He's sitting there because the cord on  
16 our side, the cable doesn't work.

17 **THE COURT:** Oh, it's fine.

18 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Thank you.

19 **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, it's Brian Rocca and my partner  
20 Michelle Park Chiu from Morgan Lewis representing Google  
21 defendants.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay. Is that it?

23 Now, if you are fully immunized -- or vaccinated, I should  
24 say. If you're fully vaccinated and you're comfortable, you  
25 can take off your masks. Leave it up to you, but you're

1 perfectly free to do that.

2 Okay. Who are we going to start with?

3 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Your Honor, I know that you had said in a  
4 recent order that you wanted to discuss scheduling.

5 We had jointly submitted a stipulation for a July 31 --

6 **THE COURT:** Oh, no.

7 **MR. POMERANTZ:** -- trial date.

8 **THE COURT:** We'll do that later.

9 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Okay.

10 **THE COURT:** I just want to get --

11 **MR. POMERANTZ:** You want to start with --

12 **THE COURT:** I want to get going with the witnesses,  
13 please. Yeah, that'd be great.

14 **MR. POMERANTZ:** That's fine, Your Honor.

15 So I thought what I -- if Your Honor would allow me, I  
16 just want to give you a brief roadmap for the witnesses that  
17 we're calling today so you know what the lineup is and who they  
18 are and what they'll be discussing.

19 **THE COURT:** Let me find that. Okay. I have your list.  
20 All right.

21 **MR. POMERANTZ:** All right. So we will start with  
22 Mr. Genaro Lopez. He is the information governance lead at  
23 Google.

24 He's going to directly address two of the three issues  
25 that you identified in your order. First, he'll address the



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1 use and operation of Google's chat system. He's going to  
2 explain what Google does to retain chats. He's going to  
3 explain how that differs from ways that it retains e-mails and  
4 other kinds of electronic documents, and he'll explain why  
5 those differences exist.

6 He'll also explain why Google's retention and preservation  
7 of e-mails and of chats is reasonable, why they do something  
8 different for each kind, and that it's consistent with the way  
9 that Google's employees use these various types of  
10 communication.

11 And then he'll also address the second topic in your  
12 order, which is the guidelines for chat content.

13 We'll then call Mr. Jamie Rosenberg. Mr. Rosenberg is  
14 currently a part-time consultant for Google, but he was a  
15 senior executive for a number of years at Google, and he  
16 stepped down from that position in September of last year.

17 The plaintiffs asked to have Mr. Rosenberg here today, and  
18 we agreed with them to make him available. We will question  
19 him briefly, and we'll ask him about his own use of chats, and  
20 we'll describe what -- he will describe what a typical chat is  
21 in the way that he uses chats.

22 The next witness is Mr. Tian Lim. That's T-i-a-n L-i-m.  
23 Mr. Lim was the one who we asked to have --

24 **THE COURT:** Oh. So no Lawrence Koh?

25 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Correct. The plaintiffs asked for Tian

1 Lim instead of Mr. Koh.

2 **THE COURT:** Okay.

3 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Again, that's another witness.

4 **THE COURT:** All right.

5 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Now, Mr. Lim was the one who we asked to  
6 have testify here remotely, and that didn't work.

7 So this morning we -- he was available to -- for a  
8 deposition. We did our 15 minutes or so of questioning. They  
9 followed with 20 or 30 minutes of their questioning.

10 So we do seek guidance as to how you want Mr. Lim to  
11 testify here today. I think the parties, the technology people  
12 on both side are scrambling to get it all put together for  
13 Your Honor. The entire --

14 **THE COURT:** Okay. So it's 45 minutes of testimony?

15 **MR. POMERANTZ:** About 45 minutes. We can play it here  
16 from beginning to end. We can submit it to Your Honor and you  
17 can watch it at a later time.

18 We seek your guidance, really, as to how you would like  
19 Mr. Lim to testify.

20 **THE COURT:** Now, what's his area going to be?

21 **MR. POMERANTZ:** He is like Mr. Rosenberg in the sense that  
22 they've asked for him to testify. We briefly go over his use  
23 of chats, his use of other types of documents at Google.

24 Again, he also -- just so Your Honor is clear, he left  
25 Google's employ last week. He's in the week between jobs, and

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1 then he starts at a new employer next week.

2 **THE COURT:** Okay. Are you still going to do Mr. Rope and  
3 Mr. Schnell?

4 **MR. POMERANTZ:** And then we're going to do Mr. Rope as our  
5 last witness, and then they will call Mr. Schnell.

6 **THE COURT:** All right. Let me take Mr. Lim -- do you have  
7 a disk or something I can get?

8 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I'm sure we can provide that.

9 **THE COURT:** It does not have to be today.

10 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Okay.

11 **THE COURT:** But by early next -- by early next week.

12 **MR. POMERANTZ:** We will work with them. We'll get that to  
13 you, Your Honor.

14 **THE COURT:** Okay. All right. I'll probably just watch  
15 the disk.

16 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Okay.

17 **THE COURT:** All right? Okay.

18 **MR. POMERANTZ:** And then, after all of those witnesses,  
19 I think, pursuant to Your Honor's order, we'll have argument.  
20 I don't think it'll be lengthy argument, given all the  
21 briefing, but we'll have argument and I will handle that.

22 I thought if it would be helpful to Your Honor, we have  
23 three arguments, and I can say them in less than one minute,  
24 just so that Your Honor has a framework for understanding why  
25 we're putting on the evidence that we're putting on.

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1 Briefly, our three arguments are as follows: first,  
2 that Google's preservation of chats and, frankly, other  
3 documents was both reasonable and proportional, as the rules  
4 require. And given the way that chats are used --

5 **THE COURT:** You know, Mr. Pomerantz, I do want to hear  
6 what you have to say. I need an evidentiary foundation first.

7 **MR. POMERANTZ:** That's why I said I would be brief.

8 **THE COURT:** Why don't we --

9 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I will stop. I will stop.

10 **THE COURT:** I know you think everything's great; they  
11 think everything's terrible. I get it.

12 (Laughter.)

13 **THE COURT:** But let me do the witnesses, and then --

14 **MR. POMERANTZ:** That's totally fine.

15 **THE COURT:** -- I'll be a much more informed consumer of  
16 your argument at that point. Okay?

17 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I totally get that.

18 Mr. Rocca is going to handle Mr. Lopez, who's our first  
19 witness.

20 **THE COURT:** Okay. Let's bring him in.

21 **MR. ROCCA:** Brian Rocca for Google.

22 Your Honor, Google calls Genaro Lopez.

23 (Witness enters the courtroom and steps forward to be sworn.)

24 **THE CLERK:** Please come forward and take the witness  
25 stand.

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1 Stand and raise your right hand.

2 GENARO LOPEZ,

3 called as a witness for the Defendants, having been duly sworn,  
4 testified as follows:

5 **THE WITNESS:** I do.

6 **THE CLERK:** Please be seated.

7 Move the microphone in front of you.

8 **THE WITNESS:** All right.

9 **THE CLERK:** Please state your full name for the Court and  
10 spell your last name.

11 **THE WITNESS:** Genaro Lopez, L-o-p-e-z.

12 **THE CLERK:** And what's your first name?

13 **THE WITNESS:** Genaro, G, as in "George," e-n-a-r-o.

14 **THE CLERK:** Thank you.

15 **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, with your permission, I have a  
16 smaller binder that's a subset of the exhibits. It might be  
17 more efficient if I hand the exhibits to Mr. Lopez. It'll be  
18 easier for him. And I have a copy for the Court as well.

19 **THE COURT:** Good. Yes, please.

20 Do you have two copies for me?

21 **MR. ROCCA:** I'll get one more copy.

22 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Can I have one too, please?

23 **MR. ROCCA:** It's the same exhibit binder you have with the  
24 exhibits.

25 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Yeah, but do you have one for me, or no?

**LOPEZ - DIRECT / ROCCA**

1 Thank you.

2 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

3 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

4 **Q.** Mr. Lopez, can you please, again, introduce yourself for  
5 the Court?

6 **A.** Yes. I'm Genaro Lopez.

7 **Q.** Where are you currently employed?

8 **A.** I work for Google.

9 **Q.** Where are you based?

10 **A.** I'm based in the Bay Area. My office is here in  
11 San Francisco, and I live in Berkeley, California.

12 **Q.** How long have you been employed at Google?

13 **A.** A little over three years.

14 **Q.** What is your current job title?

15 **A.** I am the information governance lead.

16 **Q.** As information governance lead, what are your job  
17 responsibilities?

18 **A.** Yeah. I manage a team that's responsible for ensuring  
19 that Google's corporate data is appropriately retained,  
20 communicated to employees, secured, and disposed of after its  
21 useful life.

22 **Q.** Why does Google need someone like you, information  
23 governance lead, to help manage information as you just  
24 described?

25 **A.** Yeah. Well, Google is a very complex and diverse place.

1 So I spend a lot of my time helping to coordinate our  
2 activities across functions, internal teams, to make sure that,  
3 to the fullest extent possible, we're making holistic decisions  
4 about our management of corporate data.

5 **Q.** Do you have any prior experience in information  
6 management?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Please briefly describe that to the Court.

9 **A.** Yeah. So prior to Google, I spent almost a decade at  
10 Nike, where I was the director of information governance.

11 **Q.** Briefly describe your educational background.

12 **A.** I have a bachelor's in biology from UC Berkeley and a J.D.  
13 from Lewis & Clark Law School.

14 **Q.** Are you a practicing lawyer?

15 **A.** No.

16 **Q.** Do you have any professional certifications related to  
17 information management?

18 **A.** Yes. I have an Information Governance Professional  
19 certificate from ARMA International.

20 **Q.** Mr. Lopez, as information governance lead, do you play a  
21 role in setting the retention periods for categories of  
22 documents at Google?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** What is your general approach for setting those retention  
25 periods?

1   **A.**   We look at and evaluate the business value of the item in  
2   question and set our retention periods appropriately.

3   **Q.**   Let's talk about now how Google employees create  
4   information.

5           What are the primary tools that Google employees use to  
6   document their business activities?

7   **A.**   Yeah.   Primarily, we use the different applications in the  
8   Google Workspace suite.

9   **Q.**   And can you describe what those applications are?

10   **A.**   Yeah.   They're things like Gmail, Docs, Sheets, and  
11   Slides.

12   **Q.**   What are Sheets?

13   **A.**   Yeah.   Sheets are like a spreadsheet, like Microsoft  
14   Excel.

15   **Q.**   Got it.   What is Google Drive?

16   **A.**   Google Drive is a cloud-based storage solution.

17   **Q.**   Does each employee at Google have a Google Drive account?

18   **A.**   Yes.   Yes, we do.

19   **Q.**   Can you describe to the Court what types of documents  
20   employees typically store in their Google Drive account?

21   **A.**   Yeah.   A typical Google Drive will have all of the things  
22   that you would create via one of those Google Workspace apps,  
23   as well as any other file formats that you might receive or  
24   create in the course of your job; things like PDFs, other file  
25   formats that might come from Office 365.



1 Q. For purposes of this next series of questions, Mr. Lopez,  
2 let's assume there's no litigation hold in place.

3 Is there a company retention policy that automatically  
4 deletes documents stored on an employee's Google Drive?

5 A. No, there's not.

6 Q. What does that mean from a document retention perspective?

7 A. That means that that item will remain on our systems  
8 indefinitely unless removed by the Googler themselves.

9 Q. Do you take that approach with Google Drive because of the  
10 nature of the business information retained there?

11 A. Yes, we do.

12 Q. Can you please describe that for the Court?

13 A. Yeah. So we -- we evaluate the items in our Google Drives  
14 as the most business critical for the company. Some of them  
15 need to be retained indefinitely because they are foundational  
16 documents. Some of them relate to really critical IP. So we  
17 do everything we can to ensure we're not unintentionally losing  
18 any of those items.

19 Q. Let's talk now about communications. What is the primary  
20 tool that Google employees use to communicate about their  
21 business activities?

22 A. We primarily use Gmail.

23 Q. Does each employee have a corporate Gmail account?

24 A. Yes, we do.

25 Q. Again, assuming there's no legal hold in place, is there a

1 standard retention policy for e-mails that are stored in an  
2 employee's Gmail account?

3 **A.** Yes, there is.

4 **Q.** What is that policy?

5 **A.** That is 18 months by default.

6 **Q.** Earlier you testified that Google Drive documents can be  
7 kept indefinitely. Why is there a different approach with  
8 respect to Gmail?

9 **A.** Yeah. And that all comes back to the business value  
10 assessment of e-mails versus items in a Drive and the fact that  
11 for most Googlers, 18 months is a sufficient amount of time for  
12 them to complete work on a specific project, the topics that's  
13 probably included in e-mails; and then when 18 months has  
14 passed, there's likely very little archival or reference value  
15 in an e-mail.

16 **Q.** If a Google employee has a business need to keep an e-mail  
17 longer than the 18 months, is there a way for them to do that?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** Can you please describe that briefly?

20 **A.** Sure. Googlers have access to a special label to mark  
21 individual e-mails as "Indefinite," and they are able to do  
22 that at their discretion.

23 **Q.** Okay. Let's talk now about Google Chat. What is  
24 Google Chat?

25 **A.** Google Chat is a communications instant messaging tool.

1 Q. In laymen's terms, what is "instant messaging tool"?

2 A. Yeah. It's like sending a text message. It's just a way  
3 to quickly communicate with other individual employees.

4 Q. Why does Google offer Google Chat as a tool for its  
5 employees?

6 A. It's all about enhancing collaboration and communication  
7 among employees.

8 Q. As lead of information governance, what is your general  
9 expectation of how Google employees typically use chats?

10 A. Yeah. Typically, it's those quick, one-off, "Hey, I have  
11 a quick question for you. Want to grab coffee?" You know,  
12 those types of kind of time-sensitive kind of queries and  
13 conversations.

14 Q. Is it possible for an employee to use Google Chats to  
15 convey important information?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is it possible for employees to use Google Chats to  
18 communicate for the purpose of building a community at Google?

19 A. Absolutely.

20 Q. Can you give an example of that?

21 A. Sure. So, for example, we have internal group chats on  
22 any number of topics. I have a long-standing group chat with a  
23 series of co-workers and friends where we now share the most  
24 sensitive things: birth announcements, someone gets a  
25 promotion. All of those types of things happen in our group

1 chats.

2 Q. Are there different types of Google Chats?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Please describe those for the Court.

5 A. Yeah. The main types of chats are one-on-one group chats  
6 and what are called rooms or spaces.

7 Q. Let's take those in turn.

8 You mentioned one-on-one chats. How do one-on-one chats  
9 work?

10 A. Very straightforward. It's simply one person having a  
11 conversation with one other person.

12 Q. At this point, Mr. Lopez, can you please refer in your  
13 exhibit to Exhibit 104, which is in a 104 tab.

14 A. Mm-hmm, yep.

15 Q. What is that exhibit?

16 A. Yeah. This is a screenshot of a one-on-one chat.

17 Q. Does this screenshot accurately depict what a sample  
18 one-on-one chat at Google would look like?

19 A. Yes, it does.

20 Q. Can you please describe for the Court the elements of  
21 what's on this screenshot?

22 A. Yeah. So what you see here is the names of the people who  
23 are involved in the one-on-one chat. So here it's Jeffrey  
24 Clark and Ann Gray.

25 You also see some information about the retention periods

1 that attached to this chat, the history state of the  
2 conversation. You can see that both in the top and in the  
3 reply bar.

4 And then on the left-hand side, you see a list of all of  
5 the other conversations that this person has been involved in.  
6 Might have been a while ago. Might have been 20 minutes ago.  
7 But it's all there on the left-hand bar.

8 **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, at this point, Google requests  
9 that Exhibit 104 be admitted into evidence for the Court's  
10 consideration.

11 **THE COURT:** It's admitted.

12 (Defense Exhibit DXCH-104 received in evidence.)

13 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

14 **Q.** You also mentioned group chats. What is a group chat?

15 **A.** Yeah. A group chat is just a conversation between three  
16 or more people.

17 **Q.** What is the difference between a one-on-one chat and a  
18 group chat?

19 **A.** It's just the number of people involved.

20 **Q.** At this point, Mr. Lopez, if you can turn to Exhibit 105  
21 in your binder. It should be one tab over.

22 Do you see that exhibit?

23 **A.** Yep.

24 **Q.** What is that?

25 **A.** This is a screenshot of a group chat.

1 Q. Does this screenshot accurately reflect what a typical  
2 group chat would look like at Google?

3 A. Yes, it does.

4 Q. Again, if you could describe the elements of what's on the  
5 screen for the Court.

6 A. Sure. So obviously, there are more people involved in  
7 this chat. So at the top, you see the names, as much as screen  
8 real estate will allow. There are nine members here. So you  
9 see who's involved in the chat. You see, again, the retention  
10 and the history state indicators on the screen. You see the  
11 conversation stream, who's -- the different messages. And  
12 then, again, on the left-hand side, you see a running list of  
13 all the other conversations that this particular employee is  
14 involved in.

15 Q. Mr. Lopez, are group chats always related to business  
16 issues?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Can you please give the Court an example of what you mean?

19 A. Yeah. So like we talked about before, there is no  
20 limitation on the topic of a group chat. And so internally, we  
21 have even really sensitive things, like folks who are in  
22 recovery and they have a community and an ongoing group chat  
23 where they share their own personal stories, really sensitive  
24 information. And those all are happening on -- via group chat.

25 MR. ROCCA: Your Honor, Google requests that Exhibit 105

1 be admitted into evidence.

2 **THE COURT:** All right. It's admitted.

3 (Defense Exhibit DXCH-105 received in evidence.)

4 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

5 **Q.** Mr. Lopez, the third category you mentioned were something  
6 called rooms and spaces. Do you recall that?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Please describe those for the Court.

9 **A.** Yeah. Those are more topic- or project-based type of  
10 conversations that are specifically oriented around a  
11 particular item or subject matter.

12 **Q.** Please turn to Exhibit DXCH-106. That's the next tab in  
13 your binder.

14 Are you there?

15 **A.** Yes.

16 **Q.** What is that exhibit?

17 **A.** Yep. This is a screenshot of a threaded room.

18 **Q.** Does this accurately depict what a threaded room looks  
19 like?

20 **A.** Yes, it does.

21 **Q.** Can you describe for the Court what's in this  
22 threaded room example?

23 **A.** Sure. So, yeah, as a difference from the group chats that  
24 we were just looking at, this has a name. So "Design Systems"  
25 is the topic of this room or this -- yeah, this room. There

1 are 22 members in this room. And as before, you'll see the  
2 individual messages and the names of the folks who are involved  
3 in that room conversation.

4 **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, Google requests that  
5 Exhibit DXCH-106 be admitted into evidence.

6 **THE COURT:** It is admitted.

7 (Defense Exhibit DXCH-106 received in evidence.)

8 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

9 **Q.** Mr. Lopez, are Google employees provided any guidelines on  
10 how chats are retained in the normal course of business?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 **Q.** What are those guidelines?

13 **A.** We have a Google Chat retention policy that's made  
14 available to employees.

15 **Q.** If you'll turn to the first tab in that binder, which is  
16 DXCH-1. Please let me know when you're there.

17 **A.** Okay. Yep.

18 **Q.** What is this document?

19 **A.** This is the Google Chat retention policy I just mentioned.

20 **Q.** Is this a true and correct copy of the Chat retention  
21 policy?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** And is this policy maintained in the normal course of  
24 business at Google?

25 **A.** Yes.



1 Q. Would you please read the first sentence of the first  
2 paragraph of this Chat retention policy.

3 A. Sure. So (as read):

4 "Our Google Chat retention policy aims to reduce  
5 redundant, obsolete, and trivial information in  
6 corporate chats."

7 Q. My question is: Why is that an aim of the Google Chat  
8 retention policy, to reduce redundant, obsolete, and trivial  
9 information?

10 A. Yeah. Very simply, it's because Google, like any large  
11 organization, is experiencing an explosion of information  
12 that's created by every single employee every single day in  
13 their everyday roles. So it's really critical for us to do  
14 everything we can to minimize the amount of obsolete or trivial  
15 information and try to ensure that we're only keeping those  
16 items that are absolutely necessary to do our jobs.

17 Q. Now, are there privacy issues that you have in mind when  
18 you try to achieve this aim?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Can you please describe that for the Court?

21 A. Sure. You know, one of the things that I monitor in my  
22 role are developments in things like Europe's GDPR regulation.  
23 California has CCPA. All of those are focused on ensuring that  
24 we have a legitimate business reason to continue to retain data  
25 on our systems.

1 And so we take the same philosophical approach and make  
2 sure that we're asking ourselves what is the reason why we are  
3 continuing to retain this. And if we can't answer that  
4 question, then we should be doing everything we can to minimize  
5 that retention.

6 **Q.** Beyond the privacy issue, are there any other policy  
7 issues that you have in mind when you develop this policy?

8 **A.** Yeah, there are a few other considerations that we take  
9 into account. There's the -- the common fact of the storage.  
10 The cost of storage of exploding volumes of data is expensive.

11 We also think about the cybersecurity risks associated  
12 with keeping large volumes of unnecessary data in our systems.  
13 That's a really attractive target to any bad actor who might be  
14 looking to breach our systems.

15 And then we look at it from the employees' perspective,  
16 which is when it's all about productivity and efficiency,  
17 because there's nothing more frustrating than having to sift  
18 through large collections of old files just to try to find the  
19 one that's actually related to what you're up to on that  
20 particular day.

21 **Q.** Let's look at some of the bullet points in this retention  
22 policy, again referring to Exhibit 1.

23 The first bullet says, quote (as read):

24 "24 hours if history is off."

25 Do you see that?

1     **A.**    Yes.

2     **Q.**    What does that mean?

3     **A.**    That means that if you're in a one-on-one chat and the  
4    history is off, that will only be retained for 24 hours.

5     **Q.**    Is that 24-hour retention setting for history-off chats a  
6    standard feature of the Google Chat product?

7     **A.**    Yes, this is a standard product feature, and it's the same  
8    for all Google Workspace customers around the globe.

9     **Q.**    The next bullet says (as read):

10            "30 days for history-on chats with just one  
11            other person."

12            Do you see that?

13     **A.**    Yes.

14     **Q.**    What does that mean?

15     **A.**    Yeah. This means that if you are in a same one-on-one  
16    chat and you've turned history on, those messages will be  
17    retained for 30 days.

18     **Q.**    From an information governance perspective, does the  
19    30-day retention period for history-on one-on-one chats reflect  
20    any particular view on the business value of a chat  
21    communication?

22     **A.**    Yes.

23     **Q.**    Please explain that.

24     **A.**    Yeah. So we think about differentiating between the  
25    business value of an e-mail, which is a very formal, very

1 substantive type of communication, to a one-on-one chat, which  
2 even with history on is judged to be less substantive, probably  
3 more quick one-on-one, you know, conversation back and forth.  
4 And so as a result, we've adjusted the retention period for  
5 those one-on-one conversations.

6 **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, Google requests that DXCH-1 be  
7 admitted into evidence.

8 **THE COURT:** It's admitted.

9 (Defense Exhibit DXCH-1 received in evidence.)

10 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

11 **Q.** Mr. Lopez, what steps does an employee need to take in  
12 order to turn history on for a chat?

13 **A.** Yeah. Very straightforward. So in the product, there's a  
14 little three-button menu. You click on that. The next section  
15 you get to has a button that says "Turn history on."

16 **Q.** If you refer to Exhibit DXCH-107 in your binder,  
17 Mr. Lopez.

18 **A.** Yep.

19 **Q.** Can you please tell the Court what that is?

20 **A.** Sure. So the left-hand screenshot is just showing where  
21 you're starting from. So you're in a one-on-one chat; the  
22 history is off.

23 Then you would click on those three dots up on the upper  
24 right. That would open a menu. That's the center screenshot.  
25 There you see a prominent option which says "Turn on history."

1       If you click on that "Turn on history" button, now when  
2       you return to the chat, you'll see that history is now on.

3       **Q.**   Does this exhibit with these steps accurately reflect the  
4       steps for turning history on?

5       **A.**   Yes.

6       **Q.**   Is there any other terminology that Googlers use when  
7       referencing history on?

8       **A.**   Yeah.   So we internally use the terms "history on" or  
9       "on the record."   They're synonymous.   And actually, if you  
10      look at the support pages for Google Vault, they use the terms  
11      side by side in the same sentence to indicate they are  
12      synonymous.

13      **Q.**   If an employee turns history on for a particular  
14      conversation, how long does that setting remain in place for  
15      the conversation?

16      **A.**   Yeah.   That setting will remain the same until manually  
17      changed by that user.

18      **MR. ROCCA:**   Your Honor, Google requests that DXCH-107 be  
19      admitted into evidence.

20      **THE COURT:**   It is admitted.

21      (Defense Exhibit DXCH-107 received in evidence.)

22      **BY MR. ROCCA:**

23      **Q.**   Mr. Lopez, besides turning history on, are there any other  
24      tools available within the Google Chat product to help  
25      employees retain a message?

1     **A.**    Yes.

2     **Q.**    Please describe that.

3     **A.**    Yeah.   Within the product, there's a feature called  
4     "Forward to inbox" that allows a user to select an individual  
5     message and up to four preceding messages and send those to  
6     their e-mail inboxes for longer-term archiving.

7     **Q.**    If you flip to Exhibit 108 in your binder, can you please  
8     tell the Court what this exhibit is?

9     **A.**    Yep.   This is a screenshot showing the steps to forward  
10    messages to your inbox.

11    **Q.**    Can you briefly describe what the Court is seeing in this  
12    exhibit?

13    **A.**    Yeah.   So as before, in this case, you're wanting to  
14    forward an individual message.   So the three dots will hover  
15    over an individual message.   That will take you to a menu.  
16    Within that menu, there's an option named "Forward to inbox."  
17    Click on that and the action will happen.

18    **Q.**    And what inbox does this refer to?

19    **A.**    Yeah.   This is sending to your personal Gmail inbox, where  
20    it will then be subject to the 18-month default retention  
21    period.

22    **Q.**    Does Exhibit 108 accurately reflect the steps necessary to  
23    use the "Forward to inbox" function?

24    **A.**    Yes.

25         **MR. ROCCA:**   Your Honor, at this point, Google requests

1 that DXCH-108 be admitted into evidence.

2 **THE COURT:** Admitted.

3 (Defense Exhibit DXCH-108 received in evidence.)

4 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

5 **Q.** Now, let's turn back to the retention policy, which was  
6 Exhibit 1, Tab 1 of your binder.

7 If you recall, Mr. Lopez, we had covered the first two  
8 bullets. Now I want to get to the third set of bullets.

9 Can you briefly describe for the Court what that set of  
10 bullets is addressing?

11 **A.** Yeah. So this is describing, if you're in a group chat or  
12 a room or space where the history is on, those messages will be  
13 retained for 18 months.

14 **Q.** The fourth standalone bullet says, quote (as read):

15 "18 months for chats in a threaded room (history  
16 is always on and can't be turned off)."

17 Do you see that?

18 **A.** Yes.

19 **Q.** Why is history always on and can't be turned off for chats  
20 in a threaded room?

21 **A.** Yeah. That's just one of the options that the product  
22 team created. So it has a different type of settings than the  
23 other types of chats that we've talked about.

24 **Q.** And how does the 18-month retention period for threaded  
25 rooms and spaces compare to the retention period for e-mails we

1 had talked about earlier?

2 **A.** Yeah. They very intentionally are the same. And we think  
3 that that's helpful for employees to start to -- who are more  
4 familiar with the 18-month default in e-mail, and they can then  
5 understand the way that their messages will be retained in the  
6 same 18-month time period.

7 **Q.** From an information governance perspective, can you please  
8 again make it clear. Why does Google have a shorter retention  
9 period for chats compared to e-mails?

10 **A.** Solely related to the expected business value of those  
11 messages versus e-mails that might be in your inbox.

12 **Q.** From your perspective as lead for information governance  
13 at Google, is it a sensible approach to have a different  
14 retention period for chats than these other types of documents  
15 we talked about earlier?

16 **A.** Absolutely. It is a best practice to be tailoring the  
17 retention periods to the business value of the type of  
18 information. And having a one-size-fits-all is not a  
19 recommended best practice, and so we try to be really specific  
20 and tailor the retention periods to the type of information  
21 involved.

22 **THE COURT:** May I?

23 What do you mean by "business value"?

24 **THE WITNESS:** Yeah. I mean the archival or reference  
25 value; what's the likelihood that that employee will have to



1 refer back to that information because it's, you know, relevant  
2 to some other project that they're working on.

3 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

4 **Q.** Now, Mr. Lopez, so far we've been talking about Google's  
5 retention policies in the absence of a legal hold.

6 I'd like to now ask you about retention and preservation  
7 policies that come into play when a legal hold is in place.

8 Do you have any role in implementing legal holds for  
9 specific matters?

10 **A.** No.

11 **Q.** Do you have a general understanding of how Google  
12 approaches this from a standard practice perspective?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** Is there any general guidance available to Google  
15 employees related to the preservation of chats that may be  
16 subject to a legal hold?

17 **A.** Yes.

18 **Q.** Where is that guidance maintained?

19 **A.** That's maintained in a FAQs page that accompanies our  
20 Chat retention policy.

21 **Q.** Please turn to Exhibit 2, DXCH-2 in the binder.

22 Are you with me?

23 **A.** Yep.

24 **Q.** What is this document?

25 **A.** This is the page of the FAQs that I just described.

1 Q. Is this a true and correct copy of the Chat retention  
2 FAQs?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Is this a document that's maintained in the normal course  
5 of business at Google?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Midway down, Mr. Lopez, there is a question that says,  
8 quote (as read):

9 "Under what circumstances should history  
10 settings be turned on in Chat?"

11 Do you see that?

12 A. Yep.

13 Q. What is the response?

14 A. Yeah. We outline two specific scenarios where history  
15 should be on.

16 One of them is, if you are on legal hold and there's a  
17 topic that comes up in your conversation that's related to that  
18 hold, you are expected to turn history on at that point if it's  
19 not already on.

20 And then also, if the subject matter of your conversation  
21 is of substantive business value, you are expected to also turn  
22 history on at that point for longer-term archiving.

23 Q. And, again, is this FAQ document available internally at  
24 Google to all employees who are looking for information on chat  
25 retention?

1     **A.**    Yes.  It's a live page.  It's available 24/7.

2     **Q.**    Now let's turn to this particular case.

3           Do you have an understanding of how Google's standard  
4   approach for chats was implemented specifically for the  
5   employees on legal hold for this case?

6     **A.**    Yes.

7           **MR. ROCCA:**  Your Honor, before moving on to the next  
8   series of questions, we would like the Court's guidance on an  
9   attorney-client privilege issue.

10          We're prepared to provide testimony from Mr. Lopez on the  
11   specific Chat preservation instructions that were included in  
12   the litigation hold notice for employees for this specific  
13   case.  We think that that testimony may be helpful for  
14   the Court because the Court asks about guidelines for chat  
15   content as part of this hearing.

16          **THE COURT:**  Just talk to me.  You don't have to -- so  
17   what's the issue?  You have a litigation hold that a lawyer  
18   wrote, and you're worried about sharing it.  Is that the issue?

19          **MR. ROCCA:**  The issue is, Your Honor, the legal hold  
20   notice itself is privileged.  We want to provide testimony to  
21   you, if it would be helpful to the Court, about the specific  
22   preservation practices for chats.

23          **THE COURT:**  Is it in here?

24          **MR. ROCCA:**  It is not -- the legal hold is not in there,  
25   Your Honor.  It's a privileged document.

1 And what we would like is an order or clarification that  
2 by providing the testimony, we are not waiving any privilege.

3 **THE COURT:** That's fine, but let me ask you a question. I  
4 thought this witness had nothing to do with legal holds.

5 **MR. ROCCA:** He is aware -- that's not what the testimony  
6 was, Your Honor.

7 **THE COURT:** He said: I have no role in implementing legal  
8 holds. That was his testimony.

9 So did he do this one? I'm just asking. Did he do this  
10 one for some reason?

11 **MR. ROCCA:** He did not do this specific one, but he's  
12 aware as information governance.

13 **THE COURT:** Are we going to hear from somebody who did  
14 this one?

15 **MR. ROCCA:** We're aware of somebody that -- we have two  
16 witnesses who are aware of the specific instructions in this  
17 case. And Mr. Lopez can provide --

18 **THE COURT:** You say "aware of," though. Who actually --  
19 who is the point person in the company? Are we going to hear  
20 from that person?

21 **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, Google has a large legal  
22 department. There's a large team working on these cases,  
23 inside counsel and outside counsel.

24 Mr. Lopez is familiar with the legal hold notice in this  
25 case and can provide the general -- both the general guidance

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1 that's applicable across matters but, also, how it was  
2 implemented in this case.

3 **THE COURT:** Well, okay. I'm just asking. Is there anyone  
4 who actually worked on this, that had the job inside of Google  
5 to work with the legal team to disseminate all this?

6 **MR. ROCCA:** I do not believe that Mr. Lopez -- Mr. Lopez  
7 did not work as a litigator on this case.

8 **THE COURT:** All right. When you say he's "aware of," if  
9 all he did was just read the policy before coming in -- is that  
10 what you're saying? That's all he knows? He just read it  
11 before he came in? He didn't actually do anything in the  
12 company?

13 **MR. ROCCA:** Mr. Lopez is aware of the general policy that  
14 applies for legal matters, and we're prepared to provide that  
15 information to the Court, provided it's not a waiver of  
16 privilege.

17 **THE COURT:** Mr. Rocca, just one building block at a time.  
18 How is Mr. Lopez aware of this? Did he just read the policy  
19 before he came in to testify? Is that how he's aware of it?

20 **MR. ROCCA:** May I ask the witness, Your Honor?

21 **THE COURT:** Oh, sure. Yeah.

22 How do you know about this policy? I'll ask you.

23 **THE WITNESS:** Yeah. So this specific policy, my team owns  
24 and manages.

25 **THE COURT:** Let me just step back. You just heard our

1 discussion. Look, this is a bench trial. We don't have to  
2 worry -- or a bench hearing.

3 How do you know anything about the hold for this case?

4 **THE WITNESS:** It's -- yeah. I've read what the notice  
5 says that's provided to custodians.

6 **THE COURT:** When did you read that?

7 **THE WITNESS:** I don't know the exact date, but it was at  
8 some point -- at some point after this matter commenced.

9 **THE COURT:** All right. So in preparation -- basically, in  
10 preparation for this hearing; is that right?

11 **THE WITNESS:** Not specifically in perception. Just as my  
12 general duties of being aware of what we're doing internally.

13 **THE COURT:** When was that? Last month? Six months ago?

14 **THE WITNESS:** Oh, I would say a year ago, at least.

15 **THE COURT:** A year ago. Okay. So who in the company  
16 actually rolled this out to people? Who did the groundwork?

17 **THE WITNESS:** That's a great question. I wasn't involved  
18 in that, and so I couldn't answer.

19 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, we can do what we can do.

20 Go ahead.

21 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Your Honor, can I lodge an objection to  
22 this whole line of questioning, both for the foundational  
23 aspect that Your Honor raised, but also based on the fact that  
24 Google is expressly asking to use privilege as both a sword and  
25 a shield.

1 We were expressly refused production of this litigation  
2 hold. And we repeatedly asked and Google said "no." And now  
3 they want to use that and Mr. Lopez's reading of that in court  
4 when we've never had the benefit of that. So that's just  
5 classic sword/shield, and they shouldn't be able to do it.

6 **THE COURT:** Well, you had not provided it to your  
7 colleagues?

8 **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, it's attorney-client privileged.  
9 We offered multiple times, time and time again, to a non-waiver  
10 agreement where we would provide it on the condition that they  
11 wouldn't argue "Oh, you've waived privilege." They declined  
12 that. They also said repeatedly that it's irrelevant to any of  
13 these issues.

14 So now they're saying that they're objecting --

15 **THE COURT:** Let me -- I'm sorry. Let me just jump in.

16 Did you actually give it to them or not?

17 **MR. ROCCA:** No. They do not have the privileged legal  
18 hold notice. We offered it to them repeatedly.

19 **THE COURT:** What is the waiver concern? What are you  
20 worried about for waiver?

21 **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, we're worried about respecting the  
22 privilege in a situation where if we reveal information in a  
23 hearing, that the plaintiffs will assert that we've opened the  
24 door in ways that we don't understand before we were providing  
25 the testimony. So we just want a very simple clar- --

1       **THE COURT:** I understand that. But what subject-matter  
2 waiver are you worried about? It's clearly not going to be all  
3 the legal work you're doing.

4       I'm having trouble understanding, even if there were a  
5 waiver -- and remember, I'm going to decide that; so you don't  
6 have that much to worry about -- what is the waiver? I mean,  
7 it's just a document retention policy; right?

8       **MR. ROCCA:** It's a litigation hold notice that uniformly  
9 across the case law is privileged.

10       Mr. Lopez is prepared to testify about the chat retention  
11 instruction, what custodians were expected to do. And we don't  
12 want to waive all topics in the legal hold, the lawyers'  
13 attorney work product in evaluating the case and how they  
14 describe the case to the custodians. We want to provide  
15 the Court, if the Court would find it helpful, the litigation  
16 hold language with respect to chats.

17       **THE COURT:** Well, of course I have to see it. This whole  
18 thing is about did you preserve this properly or not.

19       Why didn't you work this out before you came in?

20       **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Your Honor, we --

21       **MR. ROCCA:** We tried to.

22       **THE COURT:** Why are we doing this on the fly?

23       **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Your Honor, we assumed, when they refused  
24 to produce it to us, that they would not be using it.

25       **THE COURT:** I'm sorry. I have to jump in.



1 Your colleague here says they --

2 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** That's wrong.

3 **THE COURT:** -- offered it to you on a silver platter and  
4 you said "no."

5 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** I'm sorry, Your Honor. That's not right.

6 So what happened was, we asked for it.

7 They said, only if you agree that they are not waiving the  
8 privilege, which, of course, we will not agree because you  
9 cannot use privileged documents as both a sword and a shield.

10 They also insisted that the plaintiffs give our litigation  
11 hold, even though that's not at issue at all.

12 We never said their litigation hold was irrelevant. We  
13 asked for it, and we tried to get discovery on it for purposes  
14 of this hearing, and they said "no."

15 We assumed it wasn't going to come up. We asked them  
16 yesterday to confirm it after Mr. Lopez's summary made it sound  
17 like they were going to do it. They wouldn't confirm that they  
18 weren't, obviously, because they intended to all along.

19 And we did file that submission. Understanding that  
20 Your Honor didn't want to hear from the parties on any filings,  
21 we did try to raise it as soon as we realized it was an issue.

22 **THE COURT:** That actually is not the issue. What I don't  
23 like -- and no judge likes -- is getting a raft of motions  
24 functionally less than 12 business hours before a hearing.  
25 That's all I'm saying. Okay? It's not that I don't want to

1 hear from you. I don't want to hear from you when I have ten  
2 minutes to prepare, figuratively speaking. That's the issue.

3 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Understood.

4 **THE COURT:** All right. Look, why don't you ask your  
5 questions without showing him the hold. You should be able to  
6 ask him questions about the hold without showing him the hold.

7 **MR. ROCCA:** And just --

8 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** And, Your Honor, we will take the position  
9 that that just -- you'll decide it, but that that is a waiver  
10 of all of the instructions that they provided.

11 **THE COURT:** Not a waiver. You can ask the questions.  
12 What happened? What did the company do? What were people  
13 told? That's fine. Okay? But you don't have to show him the  
14 thing you're worried about.

15 **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, counsel just said they're going to  
16 take the position that it's a waiver of all privilege. She  
17 admitted exactly the issue.

18 **THE COURT:** Can I share something with you? It's my  
19 position that counts.

20 **MR. ROCCA:** And so --

21 **THE COURT:** And I'm taking the position that you can ask  
22 the questions and you're not going to face a waiver because I  
23 will decide the waiver issue. Okay?

24 **MR. ROCCA:** Thank you, Your Honor.

25 **THE COURT:** I've given you the biggest blanket I can give

1 you to wrap yourself in. So just go ahead and do it.

2 All right?

3 **MR. ROCCA:** Very well, Your Honor.

4 **Q.** Mr. Lopez, in this litigation specifically, the  
5 Google Play cases, what specific actions did Google instruct  
6 custodians to take with respect to Google Chats?

7 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Your Honor, I will object again, just on  
8 foundation, for him being able to talk about the specific steps  
9 that anyone took.

10 **THE COURT:** Let's see what he says and we'll go from  
11 there.

12 Go ahead.

13 **THE WITNESS:** Yeah. So in the legal hold notice, there  
14 are two specific instructions related to chats.

15 One is that folks on legal hold are asked not to use the  
16 product to discuss any topics that are related to their legal  
17 hold. And also, if they do find themselves in a conversation  
18 that strays into a topic related to the legal hold, they're  
19 asked to turn history on at that point to make sure that those  
20 messages are properly preserved.

21 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

22 **Q.** Mr. Lopez, does Google have the technical ability to set  
23 "History on" as the default for all employees on legal hold?

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** Why don't you do that?

1   **A.**   Yeah.  So our decision not taking that route is based on a  
2   variety of different factors.  The most, you know, kind of  
3   relevant to my work is that would lead to a massive  
4   over-retention of corporate data.

5           And then, very specifically, because of the way the  
6   product works, it wouldn't actually change any of the history  
7   settings for existing conversations.  So that would have very  
8   little effect to the active conversations of the custodians  
9   involved.

10   **Q.**   So let's focus on that piece of --

11           **THE COURT:**  If I may, just pardon me.

12           So Google never did a blanket preservation order for chats  
13   relevant to this case; is that right?

14           **THE WITNESS:**  I believe on-the-record chats are preserved.

15           **THE COURT:**  Which chats?

16           **THE WITNESS:**  The chat messages that were exchanged when  
17   the history was on, on the product.

18           **THE COURT:**  But the question that you were just asked, if  
19   I understood it -- and you can help me if I didn't -- is:  Does  
20   Google have the ability, figuratively speaking, to flip a  
21   switch and preserve all chats?  You said "yes."  You didn't  
22   choose to do that, but the answer is "yes."

23           My question is:  Did Google, in fact, flip that switch and  
24   preserve all chats with respect to this litigation?

25           **THE WITNESS:**  Well, just to clarify, the switch that we're

1 talking about is to set the default. So it's kind of a  
2 starting point of a conversation. So it doesn't change the  
3 ability to toggle history on or off.

4 And like we were just talking about, if you have an  
5 existing conversation and we were to flip that switch, it  
6 wouldn't change the history setting of any existing  
7 conversation. Only new conversations that were started after  
8 that switch was flipped would start with history on, which  
9 would be the effect of making the change that we were just  
10 talking about.

11 **THE COURT:** I understand that. You save only after the  
12 switch is on. I get that. Is that what you're saying?

13 **THE WITNESS:** Yeah.

14 **THE COURT:** I get that.

15 But did Google at any point turn the switch on for  
16 everybody's chat related to this case?

17 **THE WITNESS:** No.

18 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

19 **Q.** Mr. Lopez, let's go back to Exhibit --

20 **THE COURT:** I'm sorry. Why not? You were saying, why did  
21 Google choose not to preserve all the chats?

22 **THE WITNESS:** Yeah. Because to -- you know, in our  
23 estimation, the kind of substantive business value of chats is  
24 sufficiently low that we were confident that custodians would  
25 take the instruction seriously. They would follow -- they

1 would make sure that any relevant conversations were being  
2 preserved because history was turned on in those cases and that  
3 all the other conversations they were involved in were able to  
4 continue in the history-off state that they were previously.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay. So, basically, you left it up to each  
6 individual Google employee to decide about the history?

7 **THE WITNESS:** Yes.

8 **THE COURT:** Okay. And did anybody ever audit that? Did  
9 anybody in your department ever audit the chats to make sure  
10 that nothing relevant to the litigation was getting missed?

11 **THE WITNESS:** That's the thing. We don't actually monitor  
12 the substance of employee conversations. So we wouldn't -- we  
13 wouldn't be able to know that.

14 **THE COURT:** All right. So there was never any check to  
15 make sure relevant evidence wasn't being missed?

16 **THE WITNESS:** No. We wouldn't have the ability to do  
17 that.

18 **THE COURT:** Okay. And just one other -- if I may, just  
19 one other question.

20 You mentioned earlier that the chat space was kind of a  
21 place where people felt maybe more comfortable about airing,  
22 I think you said, substance abuse issues, personal concerns and  
23 the like. Is that right?

24 **THE WITNESS:** That was a group chat versus a -- a space  
25 was more where, like, substantive project conversations were

1 happening. So a group chat was what we were talking about.

2 **THE COURT:** Okay. But in your experience, is Google Chat  
3 a place where people feel a little more -- sort of letting  
4 their hair down, so to speak, more likely to give personal  
5 opinions, that kind of a thing?

6 **THE WITNESS:** It's definitely more informal, yeah.

7 **THE COURT:** Things that they may not necessarily want to  
8 put in an e-mail?

9 **THE WITNESS:** Anything under the sun that they want to  
10 communicate, for sure.

11 **THE COURT:** Okay. But is it seen as something -- as a  
12 place where you might say something you didn't necessarily --  
13 that you thought might be too sensitive or something that you  
14 didn't want to put in an e-mail?

15 **THE WITNESS:** That hasn't been my experience. I think  
16 it's more down to the expediency and the speed of the  
17 communication which is why you go to Chat versus using e-mail  
18 for your other communications.

19 **THE COURT:** Okay. Please.

20 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

21 **Q.** Mr. Lopez, if Google were to take a big group of  
22 custodians and turn the default history on, how would that  
23 impact the group chat conversations that the Court was just  
24 referring to that are of the more personal nature, in your  
25 experience?

1   **A.**   Yeah.   So the challenge with doing that is that you then  
2   may surprise participants in group chats that were previously  
3   comfortable having a conversation in a history-off state  
4   because they knew those sensitive items were not going to be  
5   available for longer than 24 hours.   You are then changing and  
6   maybe surprising folks.   And, you know, with the kind of longer  
7   time frame that those messages might be available, folks might  
8   be less willing to share, you know, kind of those really  
9   sensitive, important pieces of information.

10   **Q.**   What impact would it have on the chat behavior of  
11   participants in those groups in your experience at Google?

12   **A.**   Yeah.   I think it would just make it a less intimate space  
13   to have a conversation.   I think it would just change the  
14   nature and folks would just be less willing to share, which,  
15   you know, as we're all kind of working from home more, is even  
16   more important in just building communities and relationships  
17   internally.

18   **Q.**   Finally, Mr. Lopez, have you heard of the concept of an  
19   organizational unit?

20   **A.**   Yes.

21   **Q.**   For purposes of the chat product, what is an  
22   organizational unit?

23   **A.**   Yeah.   So as far as I understand -- and this is the  
24   non-engineer speaking -- an organizational unit is basically  
25   just a way for a system admin to group users for the purpose of



1 setting things like the privileges and the permissions that  
2 those users are allowed to do.

3 **Q.** Does Google have the technical ability to create separate  
4 organizational units that include legal hold recipients and  
5 then change the chat retention setting for that organizational  
6 unit?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Is there a problem with that approach?

9 **A.** Yes.

10 **Q.** What is the problem?

11 **A.** Yeah. So the challenges that taking that route would  
12 create are both on the technical complexity side -- the fact  
13 that we have hundreds or, in some cases, thousands of employees  
14 on legal hold at any given moment. If you're managing  
15 membership for that shifting collection of individuals, that  
16 becomes very difficult from an admin perspective. And then as  
17 we talked about before, putting folks in a different OU doesn't  
18 actually change the history setting for any existing  
19 conversations that they're already involved in.

20 **Q.** You just referred to "OU." That means organizational  
21 unit?

22 **A.** Yes. Thank you.

23 **Q.** And finally, you mentioned before concerns about  
24 cybersecurity or security. Can you please, once again, explain  
25 what the issue is with respect to that?

1   **A.**    Yeah.    So Google, like many large organizations, is  
2   concerned about the proliferation of information, corporate  
3   data.    So things like having large volumes of obsolete or  
4   redundant information in our systems is a really attractive  
5   target to bad actors who would love to find something that they  
6   could use to reputationally damage the company.   They might use  
7   it strategically in ways that we can't predict.   And so we work  
8   closely with our InfoSec partners to make sure that we're  
9   minimizing and only keeping those items that are absolutely  
10   business critical.

11   **Q.**    And you said reputational damage to the company.   How  
12   about for individuals who are chatting about something that may  
13   be personal to them?

14   **A.**    Yeah.    Absolutely.   I mean, this is a huge privacy  
15   concern.   And just on a personal level, no one would love to  
16   see their most intimate conversations available to the public.  
17   So it's just on a very personal level, we do everything we can  
18   to minimize that.

19       **MR. ROCCA:**   That's all I have at this time, Your Honor.

20       **THE COURT:**   Can I ask you, Mr. Lopez, what other  
21   litigation holds are you knowledgeable about?

22       **THE WITNESS:**   None.

23       **THE COURT:**   This is the only one?

24       **THE WITNESS:**   Of the specifics, yes.

25       **THE COURT:**   Okay.   Pass the witness?

1       **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, I don't know if I moved  
2 Exhibit DXCH -- those were the FAQs -- into evidence.

3       **THE COURT:** What do we have, Ms. Clark?

4       **MR. ROCCA:** Number 2. Sorry. Tab 2.

5       **THE CLERK:** You did not.

6       **MR. ROCCA:** Your Honor, may I move Exhibit 2 into  
7 evidence?

8       **THE COURT:** Exhibit 2? Yes, it's admitted.

9 (Defense Exhibit DXCH-2 received in evidence.)

10       **MR. ROCCA:** Thank you, Your Honor.

11       **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Thank you, Your Honor.

12                               **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

13 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

14 **Q.** Good afternoon, Mr. Lopez. My name is Lauren Moskowitz.  
15 I represent Epic Games, and I'll be questioning you on behalf  
16 of all the plaintiffs here today.

17 A couple of things off the top. You say that the primary  
18 way that Google employees communicate is to use Gmail. Do you  
19 remember saying that?

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** Did you do any quantitative analysis to understand how  
22 many chats are sent within Google on a daily basis?

23 **A.** No.

24 **Q.** So you can't tell us how many chats versus how many  
25 e-mails are sent on a given day?

1     **A.**    No.

2     **Q.**    And you talked about history on and history off a little  
3     bit.  Do you remember that?

4     **A.**    Yes.

5     **Q.**    And you said history on is called "on the record"; right?

6     **A.**    That's right.

7     **Q.**    And history off is called "off the record" at Google;  
8     right?

9     **A.**    They're used synonymously, yep.

10    **Q.**    And in terms of the normal course document retention, you  
11    said that the history-on chats are preserved for either 30 days  
12    or 18 months, depending on how many participants?

13    **A.**    That's right.

14    **Q.**    And history-off chats are preserved for only 24 hours;  
15    correct?

16    **A.**    That's right.

17    **Q.**    And we confirmed with you earlier, it sounds like that  
18    when history on is turned on, it applies only to messages sent  
19    after that setting change; right?

20    **A.**    That's correct.

21    **Q.**    So even if a history on is later in the chat, the prior  
22    discussions will be deleted after 24 hours; right?

23    **A.**    Unless you've used the "Forward to inbox" feature that we  
24    discussed.

25    **Q.**    Unless you have.  So if you haven't, just based on the

1 history settings, those chats before the setting change go away  
2 and are deleted forever after 24 hours?

3 A. That's right.

4 Q. And there's no way to recover those deleted chats after  
5 that 24 hours expires; correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And you talked a little bit about the e-mail retention of  
8 18 months. Do you recall that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you said that employees could opt out and make  
11 individual e-mails indefinitely saved; right?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. Do you make that option available for chats?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And the default policy for threaded rooms is history on,  
16 but the default is history off for all other chats; right?

17 A. There are multiple different kinds of rooms. So if we're  
18 talking about threaded rooms, they're always on. But there are  
19 also flat rooms where you have the option to toggle history,  
20 like for the other chat types.

21 Q. So for all other chat types other than threaded rooms,  
22 history is off by default?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. The Court asked you -- well, withdrawn.

25 You talked about setting retention periods based on the

1 business value to Google. Do you recall that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. But in terms of when a litigation hold scenario is in  
4 place, the business value to Google is not the same as what is  
5 relevant for preservation for litigation purposes. Would you  
6 agree with that?

7 A. There is a different obligation that attaches for sure.

8 Q. The business value to Google really doesn't have anything  
9 to do with what those obligations are; right?

10 A. It's not part of the -- the analysis at that point; you're  
11 right.

12 Q. And when a litigation hold is in place, Google preserves  
13 all e-mails from relevant custodians automatically; right?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. Custodians don't have to do anything to make sure that  
16 their e-mails are preserved; correct?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. And custodians cannot override that automated preservation  
19 of their e-mails; correct?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. You don't require employees to manually select individual  
22 e-mails to be marked as that "Indefinite"; right?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And so Google does not leave it up to their employees to  
25 decide which e-mails are preserved; correct?

1     **A.**    That's right.

2     **Q.**    And for on-the-record chats, those are also similarly  
3     automatically retained; right?

4     **A.**    That's right.

5     **Q.**    Don't require any individual action by a user to preserve  
6     history on, on-the-record chats; right?

7     **A.**    That's right.

8     **Q.**    But you don't do the same thing for off-the-record chats;  
9     right?

10    **A.**    That's right.

11    **Q.**    I think you already said in response to the Court's  
12    question that Google relies entirely on individual employees to  
13    decide which of their one-on-one or group chats will be  
14    preserved.  Correct?

15    **A.**    Correct.

16    **Q.**    And the way that those chats will be preserved if the  
17    employee affirmatively decides to preserve them is, one,  
18    manually turning history on for going forward; two, copying and  
19    pasting that chat into some Google document; or, three,  
20    forwarding that chat to e-mail.  Correct?

21    **A.**    That's right.

22    **Q.**    An employee could, of course, forget to preserve a  
23    relevant chat.  Would you agree?

24    **A.**    The product is agnostic as to the usage of it.

25    **Q.**    Understood.  So you concede, then, it is possible that an

1 employee could forget to preserve a chat; right?

2 **A.** It's possible.

3 **Q.** And if they forget and history is off, like it is by  
4 default, that chat is deleted forever; correct?

5 **A.** Like all the other chats that that person's involved in in  
6 a history-off state, correct.

7 **Q.** And, of course, even if they have all the right  
8 intentions, they might not understand what topics that they're  
9 communicating about might be relevant for litigation. Would  
10 you agree with that?

11 **A.** I couldn't speak to the individual topics that individual  
12 employees are having conversations about.

13 **Q.** Well, do you have an understanding as to the topics that  
14 are encompassed by this litigation?

15 **MR. ROCCA:** Objection. Relevance.

16 **THE COURT:** Overruled.

17 **THE WITNESS:** Generally.

18 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

19 **Q.** So do you think that you could go through all of the  
20 employees' e-mails and chats and decide which were relevant for  
21 this litigation and which weren't?

22 **A.** No. I'm not that familiar with this item.

23 **Q.** And do you have any basis to say that individual document  
24 custodians were able to do that?

25 **A.** I don't have an opinion on that. I don't know.



1 Q. And in terms of this forward-to-e-mail thing, we saw that  
2 screenshot. Do you remember that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Would it surprise you that there are zero instances of any  
5 chats that were forwarded to e-mail produced in the 1.7 million  
6 documents produced in this case?

7 A. That would surprise me, yeah.

8 Q. And would it surprise you that plaintiffs found only one  
9 document that had any copy-and-pasted chats in it?

10 A. Yes, that would surprise me.

11 Q. Did you do any investigation among the custodians in this  
12 case to understand their practices in that regard?

13 A. I don't directly work with custodians in my role.

14 Q. So the answer is no, you've spoken to none of the  
15 custodians in this case?

16 A. It's not my role; so the answer is no.

17 Q. All right. We talked a bit about what Google could have  
18 done; and you talked about, on direct, that Google could have  
19 changed the settings to preserve all chats for all custodians.  
20 Do you remember that?

21 A. We talked about the default history setting for  
22 custodians. That's not the same as all chats for all  
23 custodians.

24 Q. Well, history on are automatically preserved forever for a  
25 litigation hold; correct?

1   **A.**   Assuming that the conversation's taking place in a  
2   history-on state, that's right.

3   **Q.**   Yes. And so changing the default to history on would be a  
4   step towards ensuring that all chats were preserved for  
5   purposes of a litigation hold; right?

6   **A.**   Well, like we talked about, that doesn't actually affect  
7   any existing conversations. And for most of us internally, we  
8   have the same set of conversations ongoing at all times. So  
9   the practical effect of changing the default is very little in  
10  terms of increased preservation of chats.

11  **Q.**   So your testimony is that because you can't do anything to  
12  stop the deletion of everything that came before today, that  
13  you might as well not even bother flipping the switch today to  
14  at least ensure, going forward, it's preserved. Is that your  
15  testimony?

16  **A.**   No. The testimony is that the balances are reasonable  
17  from our perspective in terms of employee responsibility and  
18  choice and where the defaults are set in the product.

19  **Q.**   Technologically, Google could change the default to  
20  history on for all custodians; right?

21  **A.**   That's right.

22  **Q.**   And Google could have stopped that setting from being able  
23  to be changed by individual users; right?

24  **A.**   That's right.

25  **Q.**   That's exactly what Google does for threaded rooms; right?

1     **A.**    That's the way those rooms work, correct.

2     **Q.**    And in addition, even if Google didn't do anything,  
3     individuals who are subject to a legal hold could have changed  
4     their personal default settings as well; right?

5     **A.**    Yes.

6     **Q.**    They could have changed their personal default so that all  
7     conversations they start have history on; right?

8     **A.**    That's right.

9     **Q.**    And that's, in fact, right in DX-2, which is in evidence;  
10    right?

11    **A.**    Yes.

12    **Q.**    That's one of the Q&As; right?

13    **A.**    That's right.

14    **Q.**    All right. Why don't we just look at it really quick,  
15    just to make sure we're all on the same page here.

16            I'm on DX-2 and I'm on the Q&A that says "Can I" -- at the  
17    last page, the question is (as read):

18                "Can I change my history defaults?"

19            Do you see that?

20    **A.**    Yep.

21    **Q.**    And the answer is (as read):

22                "Yes, but be mindful about the risks of  
23    over-retaining chat conversations."

24            Right?

25    **A.**    That's right.

1 Q. Then it goes on (as read):

2 "If you still wish to change your personal  
3 default setting so that the conversations you start  
4 have History On by default, you can do so by joining  
5 this [sic] group . . . ."

6 Right?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Did anybody -- did you do anything to ensure that the  
9 37 custodians opted into this group?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Do you have any understanding as to whether any of them  
12 did?

13 A. Not my role; so I don't actually know the answer to that.

14 Q. All right. And you also talked about these organizational  
15 units that could have been used; right?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. So that is one of the options Google could have taken to  
18 ensure that individual custodians had history on by default;  
19 right?

20 A. Yeah. As I explained, there are significant challenges  
21 with going down that route. So that's why our system  
22 administrators, our technical teams have chosen not to.

23 Q. Yeah, the problems you talked about, I wrote them down.  
24 You can correct me if I'm wrong.

25 That Google just has thousands of employees under a hold

1 at any given time?

2 **A.** That's one of the aspects.

3 **Q.** All right. So it's -- you do manage to do this  
4 preservation for e-mails for all those folks, though; right?

5 **A.** That's because everyone's in the same organizational unit;  
6 so it's very straightforward to make that.

7 **Q.** Okay. So you're just basically saying it was just going  
8 to be too many clicks of a button?

9 **A.** As a non-engineer, I can't actually answer the technical  
10 issues that you're describing.

11 **Q.** Okay. So you really can't say whether and to what extent  
12 the fact that thousands of employees would be subject to a hold  
13 have any bearing on whether Google could have done this  
14 organizational unit; right?

15 **A.** As far as I understand, the technical challenges I  
16 described are accurate.

17 **Q.** It's technologically possible, though. So you're talking  
18 about a different challenge than technical; correct?

19 **A.** I suppose so. But I don't think we're talking about  
20 possible versus best practice, and what we're --

21 **Q.** I think we are, actually. That is what I'm asking you.  
22 I'm asking you what is possible.

23 **A.** Well, then I answered the question. The answer is yes, it  
24 is possible.

25 **Q.** Right. And so Google makes a choice that it doesn't want

1 to spend whatever the resources are to, in fact, achieve that  
2 result?

3 **A.** In light of the significant challenges I highlighted, the  
4 choices are what we've made, yes.

5 **Q.** Yeah. Just to be clear, you've not said what the  
6 challenges are. All you've said is the number of employees  
7 that would be subject to it, but you haven't -- you've said  
8 you're not an engineer. So what is the basis for you saying  
9 what these challenges would be?

10 **A.** Conversations with the technical team that actually  
11 manages this.

12 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** All right. Move to strike as hearsay,  
13 Your Honor.

14 **THE COURT:** Oh, it's a bench trial. Overruled. But I'll  
15 give it the weight that I think it's entitled.

16 Go ahead.

17 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

18 **Q.** All right. And then the other problem, as I wrote it  
19 down, is that it only saves things going forward. And we just  
20 talked about that; right?

21 **A.** That's right.

22 **Q.** So the fact that it only saves going forward, the choice  
23 was made that you just aren't going to do it because it doesn't  
24 save everything that ever happened?

25 **A.** I think we were talking about as to the direct effect of

1 making this change and the fact that it would have a limited  
2 impact on the existing conversations already in place.

3 Q. You keep saying that. But just to be clear, you don't  
4 know what's happening in those chats; right?

5 A. I'm not speaking to the substance of those chats.

6 Q. Right. So you can't speak to what would have happened in  
7 these chats the days after turning history on for any of them;  
8 right?

9 A. I -- I couldn't answer that question, as I've explained.

10 I -- I don't know the substance of those conversations.

11 Q. So you talked a bit about chats being used for social  
12 discussion among Google employees; right?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. I have to think you're not saying -- you're not testifying  
15 that Google employees do not also use chats to conduct  
16 substantive business communications; right?

17 A. No. We actually directly covered that in my conversation  
18 with Mr. Rocca.

19 Q. There's no limit to what people can do over Chat at  
20 Google; right?

21 A. That's right. It's a technology product.

22 Q. Yeah. You can attach documents even?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And you don't monitor the chats, I think you said. Right?

25 A. That's right.

1 Q. You can't -- you can only speak to how you use chats. You  
2 can't actually speak to how any of the businesspeople at issue  
3 in this case use chats; right?

4 A. That's right.

5 Q. And you -- you cannot quantify the proportion of chats  
6 that are happening on a daily basis that are social versus  
7 substantive business communications?

8 A. I know of no way that you would actually be able to  
9 accomplish that.

10 Q. All right. And have you reviewed any of the substantive  
11 business communications that Google has produced that happened  
12 over Chat in this case?

13 A. No.

14 MS. MOSKOWITZ: All right. I am going to show you some  
15 documents.

16 Your Honor, may we approach with binders?

17 THE COURT: Oh, sure.

18 MS. MOSKOWITZ: Thank you.

19 Q. Let's just look at a couple of examples of chats that  
20 Google has produced. If you could turn to PX-68 in your  
21 binder, please.

22 THE COURT: Are you all going to put these things up  
23 electronically?

24 MS. MOSKOWITZ: As soon as I move them in, I can. I just  
25 didn't want to do it prematurely, Your Honor, but I do intend



1 to move these in and show them.

2 **Q.** This is a chat from June 23rd, 2020, between Susan -- I  
3 actually don't know how to say her name. Wojcicki? Do you  
4 know it?

5 **A.** Wojcicki.

6 **Q.** -- Wojcicki and Hiroshi Lockheimer.

7 Do you see that?

8 **A.** Yes.

9 **Q.** And apologies. Can I just call her "Susan," even though  
10 that's not proper, who runs YouTube? Yes?

11 **A.** Sure.

12 **Q.** And Mr. Lockheimer runs Android and Google Play; right?

13 **A.** That's right.

14 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** All right. Your Honor, I move this into  
15 evidence, PX-68.

16 **THE COURT:** All right. It's admitted.

17 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit PX-68 received in evidence.)

18 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** All right. If we could publish that.

19 **Q.** In this chat, Mr. Lockheimer and Susan were discussing a  
20 Google Play billing policy change. Do you see that?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 (Witness examines document.) I'm sorry. I'm just  
23 catching up on the actual text on the page.

24 **THE COURT:** While he's doing that, there's a weird  
25 striping on the display.

## LOPEZ - CROSS / MOSKOWITZ

1       **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Yes, there is.

2       **THE COURT:** Do you see that?

3       **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** I do.

4       **THE COURT:** It's something on the broadcasting end. This  
5 happens periodically.

6       (Addressing Mr. Nickels): Is it something you can fix?  
7 Do you see it on the monitor? You can't fix it?

8       (Addressing the witness): Oh, actually, is your monitor  
9 on?

10       **THE WITNESS:** Yeah.

11       **THE COURT:** Can you turn it off?

12       **THE WITNESS:** Sure. Is there a --

13       **THE COURT:** Little button on the...

14       **THE WITNESS:** -- button somewhere?

15                       (Pause in proceedings.)

16       **THE COURT:** You can just put it up. Maybe, if we have a  
17 short break, one of the more tech people can take a look at it.

18       **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Okay.

19       **THE COURT:** Go ahead.

20       **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Thank you, Your Honor.

21       **Q.** So we're looking at PX-68 in evidence. And this is a  
22 substantive business discussion between these two senior  
23 executives at Google; correct?

24       **A.** That's what it looks like, yep.

25       **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** All right. Why don't you flip to PX-11,

1 please. This is a February 8th, 2016, chat between two Google  
2 employees.

3 Which I will also move into evidence, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** It's admitted.

5 **THE CLERK:** I'm sorry. What was the number?

6 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** PX-11.

7 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit PX-11 received in evidence.)

8 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

9 **Q.** Are you there?

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** This is also a substantive business discussion between two  
12 Google employees; correct?

13 **A.** It looks like it, yep.

14 **Q.** If you could turn to PX-106, please. This is a March 3rd,  
15 2021, chat between Karan Gambhir and Mike, Michael Marchak. Do  
16 you see that?

17 (Official Reporter clarifies.)

18 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

19 **Q.** -- 2021 chat between K-a-r-a-n, Gambhir, G-a-m-b-h-i-r,  
20 and Michael Marchak, M-a-r-c-h-a-k.

21 Do you see that?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Your Honor, I move PX-106 into evidence.

24 **THE COURT:** Admitted.

25 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit PX-106 received in evidence.)

1 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

2 **Q.** And these two individuals are members of the Google Play  
3 team; right?

4 **A.** I don't actually know their role at the company.

5 **Q.** This is a substantive business discussion between these  
6 two employees; correct?

7 **A.** It appears to be, yep.

8 **Q.** Google employees know that the default is for their chats  
9 to be off the record; right?

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **Q.** And they know that off-the-record chats are not retained;  
12 right?

13 **A.** I assume so.

14 **Q.** So they know that if they do want to talk about something  
15 sensitive, whatever that might mean, without leaving behind a  
16 record, they can do that over Google Chat; right?

17 **A.** I don't have an idea of their mental state when they use  
18 the product; so no ability to answer that.

19 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** All right. Why don't you take a look at  
20 PX-9. This is GOOG-PLAY-007653956. This is a March 2021  
21 document regarding "Play Apps BD Updates."

22 Let me know when you have that.

23 And, Your Honor, I will move this into evidence.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay. It's admitted.

25 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit PX-9 received in evidence.)

1 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

2 **Q.** And really, it's a long document. I'm really going to  
3 focus just on the first page. There's a heading (as read):

4 "Read me before inputting to this document."

5 Do you see that?

6 **A.** Yep.

7 **Q.** And this is some points for communications between what  
8 are called BDMS -- that's business development managers; right?

9 **A.** I actually don't know what that stands for. We have a lot  
10 of acronyms internally.

11 **Q.** I've noted.

12 The fourth instruction here states, quote (as read):

13 "Comment freely but please be aware that this  
14 doc is not privileged."

15 End quote. And it says, continues, quote (as read):

16 "For anything sensitive, please move to  
17 Chat/video call."

18 Do you see that?

19 **A.** Yep.

20 **Q.** Let's please look at PX-31, GOOG-PLAY4-003752440. This is  
21 a document for a September 13th, 2018, event entitled

22 "Roundtable Breakfast with Don Harrison." Do you see that?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Your Honor, I move this into evidence as  
25 well.

1           **THE COURT:** Admitted.

2           (Plaintiffs' Exhibit PX-31 received in evidence.)

3           **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

4           **Q.** Don Harrison is one of the most senior Google executives,  
5 the head of all of Google's partnerships; correct?

6           **A.** I actually don't know his role.

7           **Q.** Do you know even whether he's a custodian in this case?

8           **A.** I don't. And I don't actually recognize his name. So as  
9 I said, Google is a really big place.

10          **Q.** Mm-hmm. All right. Why don't we look under -- there's a  
11 heading -- if you go to the third page of the document, ending  
12 in Bates 2442, there's a "Play" heading. Let me know if you  
13 see that.

14          **A.** Yep.

15          **Q.** Do you see there's some crossed-out language in there?

16          **A.** Yes.

17          **Q.** And there's a comment that's left next to that  
18 struck-through language. It says, quote (as read):

19               "Since it's a sensitive topic, I prefer to  
20 discuss off-line or over Hangout."

21          Do you see that?

22          **A.** Yes.

23          **Q.** So we see that word "sensitive" there; right?

24          **A.** That's right.

25          **Q.** And this is about business, not someone's personal

1 substance abuse issues; right?

2 **A.** It appears that that's the case.

3 **Q.** Are you aware that businesspeople at Google warn their  
4 colleagues when their chats are off the -- on the record?

5 Excuse me. On the record.

6 **A.** No. I've not been involved in those conversations.

7 **Q.** Let's look at PX-103, please, GOOG-PLAY 010510815,  
8 February 9th, 2021, chat message between an individual and  
9 Sameer Samat, S-a-m-e-e-r S-a-m-a-t. Do you see that?

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Your Honor, I move PX-103 into evidence.

12 **THE COURT:** Admitted.

13 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit PX-103 received in evidence.)

14 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

15 **Q.** This is a one-on-one chat between these two folks; right?

16 **A.** That's what it looks like.

17 **Q.** I take it you don't know that Mr. Samat is the head of  
18 Google Play?

19 **A.** No.

20 **Q.** February 9th, 2021, is after this case started; right?

21 **A.** I don't actually know the start date of this case.

22 **Q.** Okay. There's a lengthy chat that I don't think we need  
23 to spend time on, but you would agree that's a substantive  
24 business communication; right?

25 **A.** It appears to be.

1 Q. And in response, Mr. Samat wrote simply, quote (as read):

2 "Please keep in mind this chat history is not  
3 off."

4 Do you see that?

5 A. I see that.

6 Q. So Mr. Samat was reminding his colleague he should watch  
7 what he says because the chat was not off the record and, thus,  
8 would be retained; right?

9 MR. ROCCA: Objection. That calls for speculation.

10 THE COURT: Overruled.

11 Whatever you understand it to mean, Mr. Lopez.

12 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I think it's just a general reminder  
13 to be mindful of what you're communicating via the Chat  
14 product.

15 BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:

16 Q. And that's while the litigation hold was in place in this  
17 case; correct?

18 A. Again, I --

19 MR. ROCCA: Lacks founda- -- excuse me.

20 Objection. Lacks foundation.

21 THE COURT: Try it again.

22 BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:

23 Q. Do you understand when the litigation hold was put in  
24 place in this case, the one you testified about earlier having  
25 read?



1     **A.**    I don't know the exact date.

2     **Q.**    Do you have any understanding that it was before February  
3     of 2021?

4     **A.**    Generally, yes.

5     **Q.**    So it was in place before February 2021?

6     **A.**    Well, that's what I'm asking. Is that -- is that true?

7     **Q.**    I'm asking if you know anything about it.

8     **A.**    I don't actually know. I don't know the specific dates.

9     **Q.**    All right. So you see the chat abruptly ends. There's  
10    nothing else in this chat that happens after Mr. Samat's  
11    statement; right?

12    **A.**    At least on the piece of paper in front of me, that's --

13    **Q.**    I can represent --

14    **A.**    -- that's what I can see.

15    **Q.**    -- to you that's exactly how Google produced it to us.

16         Do you take that?

17    **A.**    Sure.

18    **Q.**    All right. If history was turned off immediately after  
19    Mr. Samat's statement and the continued conversation happened  
20    after history was turned off, the chat, as produced, would look  
21    exactly like it does in front of you right now; right?

22    **A.**    That's right.

23    **Q.**    And sitting here today, you have no idea whether that's  
24    exactly what happened?

25    **A.**    I don't know what happened, yeah.

## LOPEZ - CROSS / MOSKOWITZ

1       **THE COURT:** If I may, so looking at that exhibit,  
2 Mr. Lopez, 103.

3       **THE WITNESS:** Yes.

4       **THE COURT:** This is a chat. This is the text of a chat?

5       **THE WITNESS:** That's right.

6       **THE COURT:** So a chat has no character limits? You can go  
7 on and on and on like this?

8       **THE WITNESS:** That's right.

9       **THE COURT:** Okay. And you can put in links to other  
10 websites and that kind of a thing?

11       **THE WITNESS:** That's right.

12       **THE COURT:** And you said you could attach a document. How  
13 do you do that?

14       **THE WITNESS:** Yeah. So you basically just drag and drop  
15 the document into the chat.

16       **THE COURT:** Say you had a hundred-page Excel spreadsheet.  
17 Could you drag and drop that to a chat?

18       **THE WITNESS:** Yeah, you could.

19       **THE COURT:** Okay. And that would not get preserved? In  
20 the 24-hour deletion cycle, that's the default, the document  
21 and the text would both be expunged?

22       **THE WITNESS:** That's right.

23       **THE COURT:** Okay.

24 All right. Go ahead.

25       **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Your Honor, I have no further questions.

**LOPEZ - REDIRECT / ROCCA**

1 Thank you.

2 **THE COURT:** All right.

3 **MR. ROCCA:** Brief redirect, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** Briefly.

5 **MR. ROCCA:** Very brief.

6 **THE COURT:** We're getting short on time.

7 **MR. ROCCA:** Very brief.

8 **THE COURT:** Yeah. Go ahead. Yeah.

9 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

10 **BY MR. ROCCA:**

11 **Q.** The example that the Court just gave with the Excel that  
12 was attached, if that Excel was in an employee's Google Drive,  
13 would that be retained in Google Drive?

14 **A.** Yes.

15 **Q.** Turn to Exhibit 106, which was one of the exhibits used.  
16 This is dated March 3rd, 2021. Are you with me?

17 **A.** Yep.

18 **Q.** Was this document preserved?

19 **A.** Yes.

20 **Q.** Was history turned on?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** Was it produced in this litigation?

23 **A.** Yes.

24 **Q.** And finally, I want to refer you to Exhibit 104, which was  
25 from my binder, the earlier binder.

1     **A.**    Yep.   Okay.

2     **Q.**    On the left side, you described those earlier as  
3    conversations; right?

4     **A.**    That's right.

5     **Q.**    If Google were to turn default on, history on for a  
6    custodian Jeffrey Clark, in this example, how would that impact  
7    the history-on setting for all of those conversations on the  
8    left side?

9     **A.**    It would not impact the history setting at all for any of  
10   those conversations.

11   **Q.**    So for existing conversations that are on the left side  
12   here, that technological change wouldn't impact the history  
13   state of those existing conversations; right?

14   **A.**    That's right.

15         **MR. ROCCA:**  Nothing further, Your Honor.

16         **THE COURT:**  I just have a couple of follow-ups.  
17         You're the first witness; so you get all the questions.

18         **THE WITNESS:**  Sure.

19         **THE COURT:**  So do you know how many people inside Google  
20   got the litigation hold for this case?

21         **THE WITNESS:**  I don't.

22         **THE COURT:**  Okay.  Do you know how many people inside  
23   Google actually preserved their chats in relation to this case?

24         **THE WITNESS:**  I don't.

25         **THE COURT:**  Did anybody -- did you or anybody else that

## PROCEEDINGS

1 you know of ever do any kind of an analysis or study to figure  
2 out how expensive it would be or how burdensome it would be to  
3 preserve chats just for this case?

4 **THE WITNESS:** I don't know.

5 **THE COURT:** You didn't do that?

6 **THE WITNESS:** I didn't.

7 **THE COURT:** And you don't know anybody else who did?

8 **THE WITNESS:** No.

9 **THE COURT:** Okay.

10 Okay. Thanks. Careful on the way down. It's a steep,  
11 steep step.

12 **THE WITNESS:** Okay. Thank you.

13 (Witness excused.)

14 **THE COURT:** Okay. Who's next?

15 **MR. KRAVIS:** Jonathan Kravis, Your Honor.

16 Google calls Mr. Jamie Rosenberg.

17 (Witness enters the courtroom and steps forward to be sworn.)

18 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.

19 **THE CLERK:** Please raise your right hand.

20 **JAMIE ROSENBERG,**

21 called as a witness for the Defendants, having been duly sworn,  
22 testified as follows:

23 **THE WITNESS:** I do.

24 **THE CLERK:** Please be seated.

25 Please --

**ROSENBERG - DIRECT / KRAVIS**

1       **THE COURT:** We're going to have to move it along a bit --  
2 okay? -- because we're getting short on time.

3       **MR. KRAVIS:** Yes, Your Honor.

4       **THE COURT:** Go ahead.

5 I'm sorry, Ms. Clark.

6       **MR. KRAVIS:** Good afternoon, sir.

7       **THE CLERK:** One second.

8 Please state your full name for the Court and spell your  
9 last name.

10       **THE WITNESS:** My name is Jamie Rosenberg,  
11 R-o-s-e-n-b-e-r-g.

12       **THE CLERK:** Thank you.

13                               **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

14 **BY MR. KRAVIS:**

15 **Q.** Good afternoon, sir.

16 **A.** Good afternoon.

17 **Q.** What is your name?

18 **A.** My name is Jamie Rosenberg.

19 **Q.** Where are you employed?

20 **A.** Well, I'm currently a part-time advisor at Google.

21 **Q.** And how long have you worked at Google?

22 **A.** I was in a full-time capacity for 12 years up until  
23 September of 2022 and then, after a short break, moved into  
24 this part-time role in November.

25 **Q.** What was the last full-time position that you held at

1 Google before you went part-time?

2 **A.** I was vice president, running a strategy team for our  
3 platforms and ecosystems organization.

4 **Q.** And when did you hold that position?

5 **A.** I was in that position as my focus from May 2020 until  
6 September of 2022.

7 **Q.** And what were your responsibilities in that role?

8 **A.** We operated that team like an internal consultancy, where  
9 leaders in the organization would bring us projects -- kind of  
10 like a management consulting firm, if you will. They would  
11 bring us projects. We would do the projects for them as  
12 clients, produce some sort of results that would typically help  
13 them get to a decision or a strategy formulation, something  
14 like that.

15 **Q.** And in that role, that vice president role you were  
16 describing, what was your involvement with the Play Store?

17 **A.** It was -- it was fairly minimal and infrequent. In the  
18 time frame prior to May 2020, the Play team had built its own  
19 strategy apparatus, and so we didn't typically get a lot of  
20 projects from the Play team. More of our projects came from  
21 other parts of the organization.

22 Sometimes I personally was pulled in on a consultative  
23 basis on some topics because of my history with Play, but my  
24 team didn't work on Play very much.

25 **Q.** Now, are you familiar with an instant messaging platform

1 called Google Chat?

2 **A.** Yes, I am.

3 **Q.** And do you use Google Chat to communicate with your  
4 co-workers?

5 **A.** I do.

6 **Q.** And when you were working in that full-time capacity,  
7 about how often would you say that you used Chat?

8 **A.** I would typically use it every day.

9 **Q.** And what kinds of things would you typically use Chat for?

10 **A.** Typically, I would use it for logistics and coordination.

11 I may have just come out of a meeting and wanted to ask my  
12 assistant to set up a follow-up with someone who was in the  
13 meeting, or we may -- we may be heading to a meeting across  
14 campus and wanting to meet somewhere five minutes early to  
15 huddle up and so we would say, "Where are we going to meet?"

16 Sometimes meeting management in real time, if we were in  
17 meeting with a partner, we may have a group chat about like "We  
18 need to move on with the agenda now" or "This team is outside  
19 the door waiting to come in and present," those types of  
20 things.

21 Meeting readiness: "Can you please add this slide to the  
22 deck so that we have the full picture for the meeting," those  
23 types of things. Sometimes a quick factual clarification that  
24 I needed in real time.

25 **Q.** I just want to show you a few examples. If you could grab



## ROSENBERG - DIRECT / KRAVIS

1 that white binder that you have in front of you. I'm going to  
2 ask you to look at the tab that's labeled DXCH-8, Exhibit 8.

3 **A.** Just putting my glasses on, if that's okay.

4 DX-8, you said?

5 **Q.** Yes.

6 **A.** Okay.

7 **Q.** Do you have that in front of you?

8 **A.** I do.

9 **Q.** Do you recognize Exhibit 8?

10 **A.** I don't remember this chat specifically, but I believe  
11 that I had it.

12 **Q.** And what is it?

13 **A.** This is a conversation between me and one of our  
14 administrative assistants. She wasn't my full-time  
15 administrative assistant; so mine must have been on vacation  
16 and she was subbing in.

17 And I think this is just back-and-forth about a number of  
18 scheduling questions that either she had for me or I had for  
19 her.

20 **Q.** And is this an example of the kind of use of Chat that you  
21 were describing earlier for logistics or scheduling purposes?

22 **A.** Yes, this is a good example of that.

23 **MR. KRAVIS:** Your Honor, at this time we move  
24 Exhibit DXCH-8 into evidence.

25 **THE COURT:** Admitted.

## ROSENBERG - DIRECT / KRAVIS

1 (Defense Exhibit DXCH-8 received in evidence.)

2 **BY MR. KRAVIS:**

3 **Q.** I think you said a moment ago that sometimes you would use  
4 Chat either in preparation for or in the course of a meeting.  
5 Did I hear that right?

6 **A.** Yes.

7 **Q.** Okay. Let me ask you to take a look at the exhibit that's  
8 marked PX-67. It's also going to be in that same binder.

9 **A.** Okay.

10 **Q.** Mr. Rosenberg, what is PX-67?

11 **A.** Just judging from the context and the people involved  
12 here, this looks like a group chat that was happening in real  
13 time during a meeting with one of our business partners, AT&T.

14 **Q.** And the other people who are on this chat besides  
15 yourself, do you recognize who those people are?

16 **A.** I do.

17 **Q.** And who --

18 **A.** Most of them, yes.

19 **Q.** Go ahead.

20 **A.** Oh, who the people --

21 **Q.** Yeah.

22 **A.** So Adrienne was a member of our business development team.  
23 The next one, that was a woman, Supriya, on our marketing  
24 team.

25 Hiroshi Lockheimer, we've talked about in this room. He

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1 was the leader of our platforms organization.

2 Kesh, on the next page, was a member of our business  
3 development team, as was Ted Hillestad.

4 So these are people who would have been in that meeting.

5 **Q.** So let me direct you now to the -- one, two, three, four,  
6 five, six -- seventh chat down from the top. It's from  
7 Adrienne M. on June 18th, 2020, at 18:20 hours. Do you see  
8 that?

9 **A.** I see that.

10 **Q.** And do you see where it reads (as read):

11 "@Jamie Rosenberg want to ask about personnel  
12 move before we move on?"

13 Do you see that?

14 **A.** Yes, I see that.

15 **Q.** What is your understanding of what's going on there?

16 **A.** This would be an example of what I would call an agenda  
17 prompt, which is -- you know, we had an agenda or topic prompt  
18 where we had a certain number of things -- goals for the  
19 meeting, things that we wanted to ask about to the partners in  
20 the room.

21 This was Adrienne reminding me that we wanted to ask about  
22 some personnel changes on the AT&T side and to find an  
23 opportunity to wedge it into the conversation.

24 **Q.** So would this be an example of the kind of chat you were  
25 describing earlier, using it to talk about an agenda for a

## ROSENBERG - DIRECT / KRAVIS

1 meeting or what's happening in a meeting as it's occurring?

2 **A.** Right. Like a meeting management type of thing.

3 **Q.** Let me show you just one more example. If I could ask you  
4 to turn to PX-92, please. It's in the same binder.

5 **MR. KRAVIS:** I'm sorry. Your Honor, may I move PX-67 into  
6 evidence?

7 **THE COURT:** Yes, it's admitted.

8 (Defense Exhibit PX-67 received in evidence.)

9 **MR. KRAVIS:** Thank you.

10 **Q.** Okay. Mr. Rosenberg, PX-92, what is this one?

11 **A.** This is a chat between me and Jonathan Nagao, who was a  
12 member of our business development partnership team in Japan.

13 **Q.** And what are you using the chat for in this exchange?

14 **A.** So one of the -- one of the aspects of my role that I  
15 retained in this strategy capacity is approver -- final  
16 approver on a lot of contracts related to Android, for example,  
17 on behalf of our platforms team. And this is essentially  
18 Jonathan nudging me to go into our formal deal approval tool  
19 and approve the deal, telling me that, you know, the feedback  
20 was addressed and the deal is now ready for my approval.

21 **Q.** And is this an example of, as you were describing earlier,  
22 using Chat for a quick factual clarification on something  
23 you're working on?

24 **A.** That was sort of a -- that came up in the latter part, but  
25 it looks like it was moved to some other medium. In the former

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1 part, it's more an example of coordination and logistics: Can  
2 you go do this thing in this other place?

3 Q. Now, Mr. Rosenberg, would you typically use Chat for  
4 substantive business communications?

5 A. No, not typically.

6 Q. What are the tools that you would typically use at Google  
7 for substantive business communications?

8 A. The main -- the main tool for me would be -- would be  
9 meetings. That was how my day was filled up. In those  
10 meetings, we would often review slide decks, documents. I  
11 found those to be a far more robust media to get into the  
12 details on a lot of these topics.

13 E-mail was good too, and we used that commonly to -- more  
14 commonly to kind of run to ground maybe a specific topic as  
15 opposed to a more robust strategy conversation or exercise.

16 Q. And when you say "e-mail," you're referring to your use of  
17 Gmail?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And when you were talking about the slide decks, you're  
20 referring to -- those would be documents stored on  
21 Google Drive?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now, Mr. Rosenberg, let me ask you about your experience  
24 with the level of candor that you tend to see from Google  
25 employees in chats.

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1 In your experience, do Google employees tend to be more  
2 candid in chats, or do they tend to be just as candid as in  
3 e-mails, or is it something different? How would you describe  
4 it?

5 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Objection.

6 **THE COURT:** It's a little anecdotal. I mean, it's one  
7 fellow out of thousands of people at Google. I mean, you can  
8 ask the question, but I'm not sure that one person's practice  
9 who's not related to the Play Store is going to be all that  
10 helpful to me.

11 **MR. KRAVIS:** Well, let me -- may I just show one example  
12 then, Your Honor?

13 **THE COURT:** Sure.

14 **BY MR. KRAVIS:**

15 **Q.** Mr. Rosenberg, let me direct you to Exhibit 96, which is  
16 also -- DX-96, which is also in your binder.

17 Mr. Rosenberg, what is Exhibit 96?

18 **A.** It looks like this was an e-mail to me from nine and a  
19 half years ago.

20 **Q.** And, Mr. Rosenberg, let me direct your attention to the  
21 first full sentence in the second paragraph. Could you read  
22 that for us, please?

23 **A.** (As read):

24 "BTW, the 2 million e-book number for Amazon has  
25 a ton of vanity press crap in it (self-published)

## ROSENBERG - DIRECT / KRAVIS

1 where they make no money, and also counts PD."

2 Q. Mr. Rosenberg, would you describe this as a candid  
3 communication that you received by e-mail, not by Chat?

4 A. I would.

5 Q. Mr. Rosenberg, finally, let me ask you about -- take you  
6 back to the time when you were in that last full-time role.  
7 I think you testified a moment ago that you were in that last  
8 full-time position between May of 2020 and September of 2022.  
9 Do I have that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Now, this litigation began in August of 2020. It sounds  
12 like you were in that last full-time role at the time the  
13 lawsuit was filed. Do I have that right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And in that role, did you typically use Chat to  
16 communicate with Google employees who worked on Play?

17 A. No, not typically.

18 Q. And why is that?

19 A. Well, as I mentioned, in that role, my team didn't do very  
20 many projects for Play.

21 Also, if I were involved in a discussion about Play, it  
22 would typically be because I was a member of a leadership team  
23 that was asked -- that was invited to a meeting or asked to  
24 weigh in on a document. It wouldn't -- it wouldn't be via a  
25 chat communication.

**ROSENBERG - CROSS / MOSKOWITZ**

1 **Q.** And, Mr. Rosenberg, when you were in that last full-time  
2 role, did you ever intentionally delete any chats related to  
3 this litigation?

4 **A.** No, I did not.

5 **MR. KRAVIS:** Thank you, Mr. Rosenberg.

6 I have no further questions.

7 **THE COURT:** Okay. You want to pass the witness to what  
8 should be a brief exam, I would imagine.

9 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Thank you, Your Honor. May I proceed?

10 **THE COURT:** Yes.

11 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Thank you.

12 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

13 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

14 **Q.** Good afternoon, Mr. Rosenberg.

15 **A.** Good afternoon.

16 **Q.** My name is Lauren Moskowitz. I represent Epic Games, and  
17 I'll be questioning you on behalf of the plaintiffs.

18 You just ended your direct by talking about what your role  
19 was at the time this litigation was commenced. Do you remember  
20 that?

21 **A.** I do.

22 **Q.** And I think you -- you said your team wasn't responsible  
23 for Google Play, but you acknowledge that you were consulted  
24 and communicated about Google Play throughout the rest of your  
25 tenure at Google; correct?



1     **A.**    That happened from time to time.

2     **Q.**    Right.  You received plenty of e-mails about Google Play  
3     issues throughout the rest of 2020 and 2021 and 2022; correct?

4     **A.**    I might have been on e-mails as part of larger groups that  
5     were included on those e-mails.

6     **Q.**    You were involved; right?  It's not a "might."  You know  
7     you got those e-mails; right?  Do I have to show them to you?

8     **A.**    No.  If you're asking whether I received e-mails about  
9     Google Play during that period, yes, I did.

10    **Q.**    And you also participated in chats about issues relating  
11    to this lawsuit throughout that time; right?

12    **A.**    I don't know.

13    **Q.**    Do you remember your counsel just showed you one?

14    **A.**    A chat relating to the lawsuit?

15    **Q.**    About the MADA and the contract from December of 2020,  
16    PX-92?

17    **A.**    There was a -- yes, I remember seeing a chat about MADA.

18    **Q.**    Right.  Do you understand whether MADAs are at issue in  
19    this case or not?

20    **A.**    I'm not familiar with the specific details of the case.

21    **Q.**    You can't tell me sort of what topics are and are not  
22    relevant to this case; right?

23    **A.**    Not in detail, no.

24    **Q.**    All right.  So moving ahead here, you testified that you  
25    used Google Chat, I think you said probably a few times a day

1 for various purposes. Right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So you were at Google for 11 years, I think. If we do the  
4 math, we're talking about thousands and thousands of chats;  
5 right?

6 A. Potentially.

7 Q. Do you have any reason to believe it's not thousands and  
8 thousands of chats?

9 A. No, not necessarily.

10 Q. You testified to your counsel about various ways that you  
11 used Chat and saw some examples of those. Do you remember  
12 that?

13 A. I do.

14 Q. I just want to make sure I understand your testimony. I  
15 want to make sure I heard it.

16 Did you -- is it your testimony that you did not use Chat  
17 for substantive business discussions at all?

18 A. That was not my testimony.

19 Q. So you did, in fact, use Chat -- in addition to those  
20 other reasons, you also used Chat to conduct substantive  
21 business discussions; correct?

22 A. Not that I recall, but it's possible.

23 Q. Do you think it didn't happen?

24 A. It's possible.

25 Q. All right. Let's look. Let's look at a couple.

1 Let's hand up those books. Sorry we didn't do that.  
2 Let's hand those up, please.

3 While that's being handed up, you recall sitting for a  
4 deposition in this case?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. All right. And do you remember testifying about  
7 Project Banyan in that deposition?

8 A. I do.

9 Q. And Project Banyan is a code name for a potential deal  
10 where Google proposed paying \$200 million to Samsung in  
11 exchange for, among other things, Samsung agreeing to use  
12 Google Play instead of the Samsung store to distribute apps?

13 A. I would characterize it a bit differently, but  
14 Project Banyan was related to a potential collaboration with  
15 Samsung on app stores.

16 Q. And it was on the order of hundreds of millions of  
17 dollars?

18 A. There were economics involved, yes.

19 Q. On the order of \$200 million?

20 A. That, I -- that sounds familiar as part of our proposal.

21 Q. And Mr. Kolotouros, Jim Kolotouros, K-o-l-o-t-o-u-r-o-s,  
22 managed Google's relationship with Samsung; is that right?

23 A. He managed -- yes. He was a member of our business  
24 development team, and the Samsung account was one of the  
25 accounts he was responsible for.

1 Q. And you and Mr. Kolotouros discussed this \$200 million  
2 deal over Google Chat; right?

3 A. I don't recall.

4 Q. All right. Let's look at PX-37 in your binder, please,  
5 GOOG-PLAY-001974461, a June 8th, 2019, e-mail between  
6 Mr. Kolotouros and yourself.

7 Please let me know when you're there.

8 A. Yes, I see it.

9 Q. And it may look familiar. It was marked during your  
10 deposition as Exhibit 786. Do you see that?

11 A. Yes.

12 MS. MOSKOWITZ: Your Honor, I move PX-37 into evidence.

13 THE COURT: It's admitted.

14 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit PX-37 received in evidence.)

15 BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:

16 Q. According to your e-mail that you sent at 10:28 a.m. -- do  
17 you see where I am?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. At 10:28 a.m., you said in this e-mail to Mr. Kolotouros,  
20 quote (as read):

21 "You mentioned in our IM chat yesterday that

22 Samsung broached the topic of asking for rev share on  
23 the Play Store."

24 Do you see that?

25 A. I do.

## ROSENBERG - CROSS / MOSKOWITZ

1 Q. So you're referencing in an e-mail the fact that you had a  
2 Google Chat conversation with Mr. Kolotouros about negotiations  
3 with Samsung; correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And those chats no longer exist; right?

6 A. I assume they don't.

7 Q. And they no longer exist because when you had those  
8 conversations, your chat history was turned off and so was  
9 Mr. Kolotouros's; correct?

10 A. I can't speak for his, but mine was turned off.

11 Q. You also understood that he kept his off too?

12 A. I -- I didn't -- didn't know that.

13 Q. Okay. All right. Well, we have his testimony.

14 So the only reason we ever knew that these chats even  
15 existed is the mention of them in an instant message -- I'm  
16 sorry -- of an instant message in this e-mail; right?

17 A. I assume so.

18 Q. Okay. Can I get your agreement that the IM chat  
19 referenced in this e-mail was not the only conversation you had  
20 with Mr. Kolotouros about the status of negotiations with  
21 Samsung and other OEMs?

22 A. Not the only conversation --

23 Q. This wasn't the only chat you ever had with him; right?

24 A. I don't -- I don't know if it was.

25 Q. Do you think it was even possible that that was the single

1 chat you ever had with Mr. Kolotouros over your entire time  
2 working with him at Google?

3 **MR. KRAVIS:** Objection. Vague. And misstates the prior  
4 testimony.

5 **THE COURT:** Overruled.

6 **THE WITNESS:** I'm sorry. Can you repeat the question?

7 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

8 **Q.** Sure. I'm trying to understand if it's your testimony  
9 that you think it's even in the realm of possibility that the  
10 one chat referenced in this e-mail that we don't have was the  
11 only time you ever communicated over Chat with Mr. Kolotouros.

12 **A.** No, it wasn't the only time I communicated over Chat with  
13 him.

14 **Q.** And you had substantive business communications with him  
15 over Chat; right?

16 **A.** Not typically, no.

17 **Q.** But you did it; right? You did have some; right?

18 **A.** Are you -- if I could just ask a question. Are you  
19 clarifying -- are you categorizing this as a substantive  
20 business conversation?

21 **Q.** Well, let's see what your definition is because I think  
22 that might be part of the problem.

23 **A.** Right.

24 **Q.** Do you think having a chat about negotiation status with a  
25 \$200 million deal with Samsung is a substantive business

1 communication?

2 **A.** It would be, but what I want to point out to you is that  
3 the rest of the discussion on that topic was happening in  
4 e-mail.

5 **Q.** Yeah, I get that --

6 **A.** And so what we --

7 **Q.** -- there's something in the e-mail.

8 **A.** What we did here is actually bring the conversation into  
9 the -- into the e-mail.

10 **Q.** We will never know if that's right; right? We don't have  
11 the chat. You can't tell me that's what happened, can you?

12 **A.** I -- I don't know, but I know that the discussion was  
13 happening in the e-mail and we added this topic to that  
14 discussion.

15 **Q.** Yeah, I got the e-mail. We're very happy to have the  
16 e-mails. I'm talking about the chat. You cannot tell me what  
17 was and was not in that chat; right?

18 **A.** I don't recall what was in the chat.

19 **Q.** And you had other substantive business communications with  
20 Mr. Kolotouros over Chat; right?

21 **A.** It's possible that I did.

22 **Q.** It's likely you did; right?

23 **A.** I -- I don't know.

24 **Q.** All right. How about other people? You had substantive  
25 business communications over Chat with other Google employees

1 over the time you worked at Google; correct?

2 **A.** It wouldn't be typical, but it's possible.

3 **Q.** It's not only possible. I just want to understand your  
4 testimony. Do you or do you not concede that you did have  
5 substantive business communications over Chat with colleagues  
6 at Google over your time there?

7 **A.** I don't recall the chat conversations I had.

8 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** All right. PX-16, please, March, 17th,  
9 2017, chat between you and Ashish, A-s-h-i-s-h, Pimplapure,  
10 P-i-m-p-l-a-p-u-r-e. Let me know when you have it.

11 And I will move this PX-16 into evidence, please,  
12 Your Honor.

13 **THE COURT:** It is admitted.

14 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit PX-16 received in evidence.)

15 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

16 **Q.** Do you have it?

17 **A.** I do have it.

18 **Q.** This is a conversation over Chat between you and  
19 Mr. Pimplapure, who was one of the individuals responsible for  
20 the Google relationship with Samsung; right?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** This is an eight-page-long chat conversation; right?

23 **A.** I see that.

24 **Q.** Yeah. And it lasted over six hours; right?

25 **A.** I could double-check, but I believe you on that.



1 Q. All right. And without having to spend time reading this  
2 out loud, can you agree that this is a substantive business  
3 communication that you had over Chat at Google?

4 A. So there are a couple of things going on here. One is, we  
5 are coordinating on getting to a final contract signature, and  
6 so we're trying to -- I think we were going back and forth on,  
7 you know, where are we on that. So more in the sort of  
8 logistics realm.

9 Q. Okay. So you put this in the logistical bucket?

10 A. Part of it. And then another part of it was preparing for  
11 a meeting that was going to happen and going back and forth in  
12 terms of what we needed in advance of the meeting. I mean,  
13 there's certainly topic -- you know, topics here that are  
14 implicated, but it's in reference to this contract or it's in  
15 reference to the meeting that's about to happen.

16 Q. Just a clean question. Does this chat contain substantive  
17 business discussions at Google or not?

18 A. So this chat includes discussions about business topics,  
19 but the reason I struggle with the question is they're very  
20 incomplete. Like, this is not where the entire discussion is  
21 happening. It's not where the full issue is being -- is being  
22 framed up.

23 Q. That may be true, but it contains part of the discussion  
24 on a substantive business topic; agree?

25 A. I would characterize this more as coordination.

1           **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Okay. PX-25, please, July 20, 2018, chat  
2 between you and Mr. Borchers, B-o-r-c-h-e-r [sic]. Let me know  
3 when you have it.

4           I will move PX-25 into evidence, please.

5           **THE COURT:** Admitted.

6           (Parties' Exhibit PX-25 received in evidence.)

7           **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

8           **Q.** You there?

9           **A.** I have it.

10          **Q.** All right. This is a chat describing business counsel at  
11 Google approving a proposal to offer Epic 100 to 200 million  
12 dollars to try to persuade it to launch Fortnite on  
13 Google Play. Do you see that?

14          **A.** I don't see those numbers mentioned here, but I see the  
15 reference to business counsel.

16          **Q.** And there was a discussion in Chat about the strategy of  
17 how to make that offer and how to make it more attractive than  
18 whatever Samsung might be offering; right?

19          **A.** Yeah, based on the cont- -- I don't remember this chat  
20 specifically; but based on the context, I think we were nearing  
21 a meeting with Epic. Bob, who was running marketing for us at  
22 the time, was reaching out to me, asking if I had everything I  
23 needed for the meeting.

24          **Q.** Okay. So was this a substantive business communication,  
25 in your view?

1 A. Again, I would put this more in that sort of  
2 coordination/meeting readiness category.

3 Q. Okay. All right. That's good to know.

4 All right. So let's talk about the holds. You've been  
5 placed under many litigation holds over your time at Google;  
6 right?

7 A. I believe so, yes.

8 Q. During the last five or six years at Google, do you recall  
9 a time where you were not under at least one litigation hold?

10 A. I don't.

11 Q. And is it fair to say that in the aggregate, the holds  
12 cover pretty much every aspect of your job?

13 A. I assumed they did.

14 Q. Let's see. So I think you talked about not really  
15 communicating after the litigation hold. Is that your -- is  
16 that your testimony, that you didn't really communicate over  
17 Chat after getting a hold?

18 A. I don't recall --

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. -- testifying exactly that way.

21 Q. All right. So you did use chats after getting the  
22 litigation holding?

23 A. Yes. I use Chat every day.

24 Q. You recall receiving live training on written  
25 communications several times throughout your career at Google;

1 right?

2 **A.** I definitely recall training -- receiving training once or  
3 twice.

4 **Q.** And those were live discussion sessions with a group of  
5 people; right?

6 **A.** Yes, typically.

7 **Q.** And many people at Google received that same training you  
8 got; right?

9 **A.** I think others did, yes.

10 **Q.** And those training sessions were presented by lawyers?

11 **A.** The ones that I was in, yes.

12 **Q.** And those trainings included presentation slides?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Please take a look at PX-120. This is a  
15 June 14th, 2021, slide deck.

16 I would move PX-120 into evidence, please, Your Honor.

17 **THE COURT:** What is this?

18 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** What is it?

19 **THE COURT:** Yes.

20 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Oh, we are going to talk about it. It is  
21 a presentation that Google trains its employees on how to,  
22 quote, communicate with care.

23 **MR. KRAVIS:** I object on relevance grounds. This is  
24 irrelevant. It has nothing to do with the issues before  
25 the Court at the hearing. This is a separate issue that was

1 litigated by the state plaintiffs in another case. They did  
2 not prevail there. It is not relevant here.

3 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** A very different issue. And I'm happy to  
4 lay the foundation by pointing everyone's attention to the  
5 relevant pages.

6 **THE COURT:** Okay. It's admitted. Go ahead.

7 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** Thank you.

8 (Plaintiffs' Exhibit PX-120 received in evidence.)

9 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

10 **Q.** So the first page is -- it shows that it's an interactive  
11 set of slides, right, that you click through?

12 **A.** I assume so, yes.

13 **Q.** And if you turn to the second page --

14 **THE COURT:** Well, have you ever seen this document  
15 before --

16 **THE WITNESS:** I don't recall this --

17 **THE COURT:** -- Mr. Rosenberg?

18 **THE WITNESS:** I don't recall this specifically. This is  
19 not -- this is the not training that I remember.

20 **THE COURT:** He has to be familiar with it before you start  
21 asking questions.

22 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

23 **Q.** Okay. You received "Communicate with Care" training;  
24 correct?

25 **A.** I did receive training, but I don't -- I don't recognize

1 this particular training.

2 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** All right. Your Honor, I think the  
3 contents, even if not this specific document, may have been  
4 provided in the training. Can I ask whether he has received  
5 training along the lines of some of the contents of  
6 these pages?

7 **THE COURT:** If you want to use it as a door opener, sure,  
8 but don't ask him to testify about a document he hasn't seen  
9 before.

10 **BY MS. MOSKOWITZ:**

11 **Q.** Okay. Did you receive training from Google that reminded  
12 employees that Google is in the public eye and often in the  
13 courthouse and has to produce documents in connection with  
14 those proceedings?

15 **A.** I don't know if that was the specific content of the  
16 training I received.

17 **Q.** Did you have that understanding as a Google employee?

18 **A.** Which -- understanding of what? Sorry?

19 **Q.** That Google was going to have to produce lots of records  
20 in lots of litigation and government proceedings based on  
21 Google being in the public eye.

22 **A.** I mean, I had that understanding generally. I don't know  
23 if that understanding came from one of these trainings.

24 **Q.** Okay. So do you recall ever being presented with  
25 hypothetical scenarios of how to approach communicating about

1 certain issues in those trainings?

2 **A.** I don't recall.

3 **Q.** Do you ever recall getting trained on moving conversations  
4 over to Chat in connection with those trainings?

5 **A.** I don't recall.

6 **Q.** Okay. Well, we'll reserve that for closing. I'll move  
7 on.

8 During your time at Google, you kept your chat history off  
9 the entire time; correct?

10 **A.** Correct. I didn't change the default.

11 **Q.** And when you were deposed on February 10th of 2022, your  
12 chat history was still turned off; correct?

13 **A.** Correct.

14 **Q.** You have done nothing to preserve chats for purposes of  
15 this litigation; correct?

16 **A.** I have not done anything to preserve chats for this  
17 litigation.

18 **MS. MOSKOWITZ:** I pass the witness, Your Honor.

19 **THE COURT:** Did you get one of those litigation hold  
20 notices for this case?

21 **THE WITNESS:** I did.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay.

23 Okay. Is that it?

24 **MR. KRAVIS:** Your Honor, may I just very briefly inquire  
25 about these exhibits?

## ROSENBERG - REDIRECT / KRAVIS

1       **THE COURT:** Very briefly, please.

2       **MR. KRAVIS:** Thank you.

3                               **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

4       **BY MR. KRAVIS:**

5       **Q.** Mr. Rosenberg, very briefly. I think I heard you testify  
6 on direct examination that the last full-time position you held  
7 at Google was from March of 2020 until September of 2022. Did  
8 I have that right?

9       **A.** May of 2020 --

10      **Q.** May of 2020.

11      **A.** -- to September of 2022.

12      **Q.** Thank you. Yes.

13           And I think, as we had discussed, you were in that  
14 position when this litigation was filed in August of 2020. Do  
15 I have that right?

16      **A.** Yes.

17      **Q.** Can I ask you to just take a look at Plaintiffs'  
18 Exhibit 37, one of the exhibits you were shown. What's the  
19 date on that exhibit?

20      **A.** The date is June 8th, 2019.

21      **Q.** Before the lawsuit was filed?

22      **A.** Yes.

23      **Q.** Plaintiffs' Exhibit 16, can you take a look at that. The  
24 date of that one is March 17th, 2017?

25      **A.** Correct.



## ROSENBERG - REDIRECT / KRAVIS

1 Q. Before the lawsuit was filed?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Plaintiffs' Exhibit 25, July 20th, 2018.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Before the lawsuit was filed?

6 A. Yes.

7 MR. KRAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Rosenberg.

8 Nothing further.

9 THE COURT: Okay. How much more do we have for witness  
10 time?

11 MR. POMERANTZ: Your Honor, we only have one more witness,  
12 and that's Mr. Rope.

13 THE COURT: Oh, okay.

14 MR. POMERANTZ: We think our direct is about 12 minutes  
15 for Mr. Rope. I don't know their cross.

16 And then I think they have one witness that they're going  
17 to call.

18 MR. SUMMERS: Your Honor, we have one live witness, an  
19 expert, Ron Schnell; but then we also have several short --

20 THE COURT: An expert?

21 MR. SUMMERS: -- video clips that I was going to work into  
22 my closing argument; and I think they're very important, given  
23 the issues that have been raised there.

24 THE COURT: Well, here's my situation. One of our new  
25 colleagues is being ceremonially installed at 4 o'clock. So

## PROCEEDINGS

1 I'm running out of time.

2 **MR. SUMMERS:** Your Honor --

3 **THE COURT:** How about this? Are you all from out of  
4 state?

5 You are. Okay.

6 **MR. SUMMERS:** Your Honor, I have a suggestion.

7 Mr. Schnell -- there are a few screenshots. He was going  
8 to do a live demonstration of Chat and how you can go through  
9 it. He can be done --

10 **THE COURT:** I think I've got Chat. I'm not sure I need  
11 any more on that.

12 **MR. SUMMERS:** What I was going to say is, there may be  
13 three slides that I think are very important. If the other  
14 side will stipulate to me using them in the argument -- and I  
15 can show them to them at the break -- we can withdraw  
16 Mr. Schnell.

17 **THE COURT:** Oh, okay.

18 **MR. SUMMERS:** And --

19 **THE COURT:** I'll tell you what. Why don't we just take --

20 **MR. SUMMERS:** But we're going to need time for that  
21 argument because --

22 **THE COURT:** Let's just take about five -- a good five,  
23 seven minutes, max, and you can talk with Mr. Pomerantz. Okay?

24 All right. We'll be back in about -- you can step down.

25 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

## PROCEEDINGS

(Witness excused.)

**THE CLERK:** All rise. Court is in recess.

(Recess taken at 2:58 p.m.)

(Proceedings resumed at 3:05 p.m.)

**THE CLERK:** We're back on the record.

**THE COURT:** Okay. What did you decide --

**MS. CHIU:** Your Honor --

**THE COURT:** -- for the expert?

**MS. CHIU:** Yes, Your Honor. My name is Michelle Chiu for Google.

Good news. We've been able to significantly reduce the amount of questions we have for Mr. Rope. So we'd like to call him to the stand at this time. I think it'll be rather shorter.

**THE COURT:** Oh. Well, what about the expert?

**MR. SUMMERS:** I just heard that it sounds like we have an arrangement. If they can do him in less than ten minutes and we can do a cross faster than that, we can probably squeeze it in.

**THE COURT:** But what about Mr. Schnell?

**MR. SUMMERS:** We would withdraw Mr. Schnell and finish by 4:00.

**THE COURT:** Okay. So by agreement, Mr. Schnell is withdrawn, and we're going to do Mr. Rope. Is that right?

**MR. SUMMERS:** And there are a couple of slides that we've

**ROPE - DIRECT / CHIU**

1 agreed --

2 **THE COURT:** Sure.

3 **MR. SUMMERS:** -- the Court can see without a sponsoring  
4 witness.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay.

6 (Witness enters the courtroom and steps forward to be sworn.)

7 **THE CLERK:** Please raise your right hand.

8 **ANDREW ROPE,**

9 called as a witness for the Defendants, having been duly sworn,  
10 testified as follows:

11 **THE WITNESS:** Yes, I do.

12 **THE CLERK:** Please be seated.

13 Please state your full name for the Court and spell your  
14 last name.

15 **THE WITNESS:** Andrew Rope, R-o-p-e.

16 **THE CLERK:** Thank you.

17 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

18 **BY MS. CHIU:**

19 **Q.** Good afternoon, Mr. Rope. Where are you currently  
20 employed?

21 **A.** I'm currently employed at Google.

22 **Q.** And in what city at Google are you based?

23 **A.** I'm based in the Mountain View, California, office.

24 **Q.** What is your current job title?

25 **A.** Current title is scaled operations manager on the legal

## ROPE - DIRECT / CHIU

1 team.

2 **Q.** Can you just give us a brief description of what those  
3 responsibilities entail?

4 **A.** Sure. In general, I support the operational teams that  
5 run discovery and also support the general litigation teams at  
6 Google.

7 **Q.** Mr. Rope, as part of your work at Google, are you familiar  
8 with the legal holds that Google implements when a litigation  
9 is involving Google?

10 **A.** Yes, in general.

11 **Q.** Mr. Rope, when Google is involved in litigation, what is  
12 the general process that takes place in terms of preserving  
13 information for litigation?

14 **A.** When Google's involved in litigation, the general practice  
15 would be to do an investigation to understand what the case  
16 generally deals with and identify individuals that may possess  
17 potentially relevant information, and then they will issue a  
18 legal hold.

19 The legal hold will put in place certain technical  
20 controls to prevent deletion of certain categories of  
21 information.

22 And there are also legal hold notices sent to the  
23 individuals subject to the hold that cover general categories  
24 of information and certain instructions.

25 **Q.** Is it standard practice for Google to issue a litigation

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1 hold notice in all matters where Google is a party?

2 **A.** Yes, that's the standard practice.

3 **Q.** And what categories of data are preserved when a legal  
4 hold is implemented?

5 **A.** When the legal hold is implemented, the e-mail data or  
6 Gmail data is preserved; Google Workspace files, which includes  
7 Docs, Sheets, Slides; and also Google Drive content, which can  
8 include other file types.

9 **Q.** Mr. Rope, we've been talking about Google's general  
10 practices when a legal hold is in place. I'd like to talk to  
11 you a little bit about the specific legal hold that was put  
12 into this litigation.

13 Are you familiar with that?

14 **A.** Generally, yes.

15 **Q.** And were you specifically responsible for implementing the  
16 legal hold or hold notice in this case?

17 **A.** No, I was not.

18 **Q.** But did you take steps to familiarize yourself with the  
19 steps that were taken in this litigation?

20 **A.** Yes. I'm generally familiar with the standard process  
21 that we follow, and I became familiar with the steps taken in  
22 this case.

23 **THE COURT:** If I may jump in, who actually did the hold in  
24 this case at Google? What's the person's name?

25 **THE WITNESS:** I don't know the individual's name, but it

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1 would be a member of the legal team. It's probably an attorney  
2 or paralegal that --

3 **THE COURT:** It wasn't you?

4 **THE WITNESS:** It was not me, no.

5 **THE COURT:** Have you done any other litigation holds at  
6 Google?

7 **THE WITNESS:** No. I don't issue litigation holds as part  
8 of my role.

9 **THE COURT:** So all you did was read something to get ready  
10 for today? Is that basically it?

11 **THE WITNESS:** I -- I -- I don't know that I read the exact  
12 hold notice for this matter, but I'm familiar generally with  
13 the instructions --

14 **THE COURT:** All right. You've never done a hold before at  
15 Google, a litigation hold?

16 **THE WITNESS:** I have not personally issued a legal hold.

17 **THE COURT:** And you didn't do the one in this case?

18 **THE WITNESS:** No.

19 **THE COURT:** I'm sorry. I just -- what is the value of  
20 this?

21 **MS. CHIU:** Your Honor, perhaps I can ask a few foun- --

22 **THE COURT:** I can read the documents as well as the  
23 witness.

24 **MS. CHIU:** I understand, Your Honor. Perhaps I can ask a  
25 few foundational questions to indicate Mr. Rope's familiarity

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1 with what would be in a legal hold.

2 **THE COURT:** His familiarity is based on reading the hold.  
3 I can do the same thing. So what do you want to ask that's  
4 pertinent and useful to me in this case?

5 **MS. CHIU:** We will provide some testimony --

6 **THE COURT:** Can I just ask? This is a rhetorical  
7 question. Why didn't you bring the person responsible for all  
8 this? It's some nameless individual at Google, which I find  
9 quite mysterious, given the size of this case. Why are we  
10 hearing --

11 (Addressing the witness): I'm sorry. I'm talking about  
12 you like you're not in the room, but you are.

13 Why are we hearing from this individual and not the person  
14 who actually had the hands-on responsibility?

15 **MS. CHIU:** Your Honor, I don't believe there is actually  
16 one individual that could be responsible.

17 **THE COURT:** Any individual who was actually involved.

18 **MS. CHIU:** I understand that, Your Honor.

19 **THE COURT:** We've heard from everybody who has never had  
20 anything to do with this. Why haven't we heard from someone  
21 who actually had a role in the hold?

22 **MS. CHIU:** Your Honor, we believe Mr. Rope has the  
23 sufficient testimony or information that would be responsive to  
24 the categories that you provided us.

25 We understand your question. And I just have a couple



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1 more follow-up questions for Mr. Rope, and then we'll be  
2 finished.

3 **THE COURT:** Let's make it quick, please.

4 **BY MS. CHIU:**

5 **Q.** Mr. Rope, was a legal hold notice issued in this  
6 litigation?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Do you know when that was issued?

9 **A.** I believe the initial notice and hold was put in place in  
10 September of 2020, shortly after the complaint was filed.

11 **Q.** Did Google send any updates or reminders regarding the  
12 hold notice?

13 **A.** Yes. The standard practice would be to send reminders  
14 about every six months. I believe four reminders were sent in  
15 this particular matter.

16 **Q.** Mr. Rope, are you aware how many individuals are subject  
17 to the legal hold for this case?

18 **A.** I believe the current number is about 360 individuals.

19 **Q.** Do you know how many of those individuals are custodians  
20 for this litigation?

21 **A.** I believe the number is about 40.

22 **Q.** I'd like to talk to you a little bit about the production  
23 of documents in this case.

24 **THE COURT:** Can I just -- if I may.

25 How do you know these numbers?

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1       **THE WITNESS:** We have an internal tracking system that we  
2 use to track litigation holds and different case -- case data,  
3 and so I reviewed that to familiarize myself.

4       I also talked with members of the legal team that were  
5 responsible for issuing those holds.

6       **THE COURT:** Thank you.

7       **BY MS. CHIU:**

8       **Q.** Mr. Rope, are you generally familiar with the production  
9 of documents in this litigation?

10      **A.** In general, yes.

11      **Q.** How many documents in total has Google produced?

12      **A.** I believe the number is about 3.1 million documents --  
13 yes, documents. Thank you.

14      **Q.** And how many pages is that?

15      **A.** I believe that translates to about 21 million pages.

16      **Q.** And how many of those documents were -- excuse me. How  
17 many chats were collected in this litigation?

18      **A.** I believe the number is about 176,000.

19      **Q.** And how many -- and were those chats collected from all  
20 the custodians in this case?

21      **A.** That's my understanding.

22      **Q.** And how many chats were produced?

23      **A.** I believe it was roughly 3,000.

24      **MS. CHIU:** Your Honor, at this time I have no further  
25 questions.

## PROCEEDINGS

1       **THE COURT:** So of these 360 or so Google employees who got  
2 the hold notice, how many of them opted to preserve their  
3 chats?

4       **THE WITNESS:** I don't know how many of the overall 360.  
5 I believe we collected chat messages from all of the  
6 custodians, which was that smaller number of about 40.

7       **THE COURT:** Okay. But you don't know how many of the 360  
8 elected to preserve their chats?

9       **THE WITNESS:** I haven't -- I don't know that, no.

10       **THE COURT:** Is that tracked at Google?

11       **THE WITNESS:** I'm not familiar. I mean, I know the legal  
12 team issues notices and has subsequent follow-up discussions  
13 with individuals subject to hold. I don't know the particulars  
14 of this case.

15       **THE COURT:** Okay. But, for example, on whatever that  
16 database is that you looked at to get that 360 number --

17       **THE WITNESS:** Yes.

18       **THE COURT:** -- there's not a column that says "Chats Are  
19 Being Preserved" for each person?

20       **THE WITNESS:** Well, yes, it would say that chats are being  
21 preserved, and that would include on-the-record or history-on  
22 chats.

23       **THE COURT:** Oh, so there is a column that says that for  
24 each person?

25       **THE WITNESS:** It would say the types of -- or the

## PROCEEDINGS

1 categories of information that are being preserved for each  
2 person.

3 **THE COURT:** Oh. So for each of those 360 people, you can  
4 tell whether or not they preserved their chats?

5 **THE WITNESS:** We can tell that Chat was one of the  
6 categories of information subject to the hold. Again, I think  
7 it's been testified to prior. An individual would still have  
8 to set the history to on.

9 **THE COURT:** That's what I'm asking. I know they were  
10 told: It's up to you to preserve it or not.

11 What I'm trying to figure out is the next step. Is there  
12 an actual record of who elected to do the preservation?

13 **THE WITNESS:** We would know that from checking the -- from  
14 that 176,000 chats that were messaged, which participants were  
15 included. But I'm not aware of another way to track which of  
16 the 360 total had done that.

17 **THE COURT:** How many people did that 176,000 chats come  
18 from? Do you know?

19 **THE WITNESS:** I'm sorry. I don't know the exact number.  
20 I believe it included all the 40 custodians, but I'm not sure  
21 who else was included in that number.

22 **THE COURT:** Was it, at most, 40 of the 360 people?

23 **THE WITNESS:** I think it would be at minimum, because we  
24 did get chat messages from each of the 40 custodians. So  
25 additional --

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1       **THE COURT:** But you don't know what the upper number might  
2 be?

3       **THE WITNESS:** Exactly. I don't know the upper number.

4       **THE COURT:** Okay. Sorry. Go ahead.

5                               **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

6       **BY MS. WEINSTEIN:**

7       **Q.** Good afternoon, Mr. Rope. My name is Lauren Weinstein. I  
8 represent the states, and I'll be examining you today on behalf  
9 of the plaintiffs.

10       You have no personal knowledge of the litigation hold in  
11 this case aside from glancing at it; right?

12       **A.** I'm familiar with the general practice and what generally  
13 goes in our hold notices.

14       **Q.** You didn't disseminate the litigation hold for this case?

15       **A.** I'm sorry. By "disseminate," do you mean did I issue and  
16 send that out to individuals?

17       **Q.** Correct.

18       **A.** No, I did not.

19       **Q.** Okay. And you didn't personally provide instructions to  
20 the custodians in this case about acting in accordance with  
21 that litigation hold, did you?

22       **A.** No, I personally did not.

23       **Q.** Do you know who did?

24       **A.** No, I don't know. I believe it would be members of the  
25 legal team.

## ROPE - CROSS / WEINSTEIN

1 Q. You testified you talked to people responsible for the  
2 hold in this case. Who did you talk to?

3 A. I talked with Google's legal team, which includes internal  
4 and outside counsel, lawyers.

5 Q. What are the names of those people?

6 A. I don't remember every name.

7 Q. Do you remember any names, a single name?

8 A. Yes. I mean, the counsel who's present here today are  
9 included in people that I've talked with. I've also talked  
10 with -- I don't remember the exact names. There were some  
11 paralegals and other -- other folks that worked on -- on the  
12 hold.

13 Q. What are the names of the paralegals?

14 A. I believe one individual is Aaron Madfes. I don't  
15 remember the other -- other folks that I spoke with.

16 Q. And those people are not here today; correct?

17 A. I don't believe so, no.

18 Q. Do you know why you're here today and they're not?

19 A. I believe as part of my role, I'm generally familiar with  
20 our -- how we effectuate legal holds. And I do support both  
21 operational teams that do the subsequent steps to collect,  
22 process, make those documents available for preview -- sorry --  
23 review and, ultimately, production.

24 Q. But you did not specifically do anything on this  
25 litigation hold; correct?

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1     **A.**    I didn't personally, no.

2     **Q.**    In your declaration -- you submitted a declaration in this  
3     case; right?

4     **A.**    Yes.

5     **Q.**    In connection with this spoliation motion?

6     **A.**    I submitted a declaration related to this motion, yes.

7     **Q.**    On November 3rd, 2022?

8     **A.**    I don't know the exact date, but that sounds about right.

9     **Q.**    Sounds generally right?   Okay.

10    **A.**    Yes.

11    **Q.**    And in that declaration, you attested that (as read):

12                 "Google . . . employed custodial interviews with  
13                 individuals likely to have discoverable information  
14                 to identify data sources Google may need to  
15                 preserve."

16                 Correct?

17    **A.**    If -- yeah.   If I could take a look at the declaration, I  
18    could certainly confirm that.   But that sounds --

19    **Q.**    Any reason to believe that's not right?

20    **A.**    No.   That sounds generally right, yeah.

21                 **THE COURT:**   Well, do you have one you can hand to him?

22                 **MS. WEINSTEIN:**   Yes, sir, I do.   In the interest of  
23    time --

24                 **THE COURT:**   Well, we don't have to go too fast.

25                 **MS. WEINSTEIN:**   Okay.   Sounds good.

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1 Thank you very much. Please give a copy to counsel as  
2 well.

3 **THE COURT:** I don't need it. I have one. Thank you.

4 **BY MS. WEINSTEIN:**

5 **Q.** This is PX-163.

6 You don't need copies over there?

7 Sir, is this the declaration you submitted in this matter?

8 One of them?

9 **A.** Yes, looks like it.

10 **Q.** Yeah. On the last page, it has your signature; right?

11 Andrew Rope?

12 **A.** Yes. I think I did that with DocuSign, yeah, electronic  
13 signature.

14 **Q.** You meant to sign this; right? Nobody signed it for you?

15 **A.** Yes. I signed it electronically, yes.

16 **Q.** And you swore that the information in this declaration is  
17 true and correct; right?

18 **A.** Yes. To the best of my ability, yes.

19 **Q.** The information in here is true and correct, isn't it?

20 **A.** Yes. As far as I know, yes.

21 **Q.** Okay. And you -- look at paragraph 15, please, that is on  
22 page 3, which you should be on already. It has your signature  
23 on it. That's language I just read to you, isn't it?

24 (As read):

25 "Google also employed custodial



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1 interviews . . . ."

2 Do you see that?

3 **A.** Yes, that's right.

4 **Q.** You were not personally involved in any of those custodial  
5 interviews, were you?

6 **A.** No.

7 **Q.** And you heard Mr. Rosenberg testify that he doesn't -- he  
8 couldn't tell us all the issues that are relevant to this  
9 litigation; correct?

10 **A.** I don't recall the testimony exactly, but, yeah, I think I  
11 heard him say something similar to that, yeah.

12 **Q.** And you can't tell us whether any of the other  
13 36 custodians from Google in this case could tell us all the  
14 issues relevant to this litigation, could you?

15 **A.** I'm not sure how they would answer. No, I don't know.

16 **Q.** You have no basis for doing that?

17 **A.** No. I haven't spoken with the individuals. I'm not sure.

18 **Q.** You haven't spoken to the 37 custodians in this case? Was  
19 that what you just said?

20 **A.** I have not spoken with them, no.

21 **Q.** Are you aware that plaintiffs in this case issued  
22 interrogatories concerning Google's document preservation  
23 efforts?

24 **A.** It sounds familiar, yes.

25 **Q.** Okay. Let's have PX-140, please. Thank you.

## ROPE - CROSS / WEINSTEIN

1 This is Defendants Google LLC's responses and objections  
2 to plaintiffs' document preservation interrogatories. You see  
3 that on the second page?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And were you involved in the preparation of these  
6 interrogatory responses?

7 A. Let me review.

8 (Witness examines document.) No, I don't believe I was  
9 part of the preparation for responses.

10 Q. Were you involved in any of the investigation that  
11 Google's legal team took to prepare these interrogatory  
12 responses?

13 A. I don't believe so.

14 Q. Do you know who was?

15 A. I'd assume, broadly, it would be members of the legal  
16 team. I don't know individually.

17 Q. So you don't know?

18 A. (No audible response.)

19 Q. I'm sorry. Did you respond to my question? I didn't hear  
20 you.

21 A. I don't know individual names of people that would have  
22 been involved in that investigation.

23 Q. Let's look at Interrogatory Number 4. This is on page 11.  
24 It says (as read):

25 "For each Custodian, state the start and end

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1 date, if applicable, of each litigation hold  
2 applicable to the Custodian during the Custodial  
3 Period for that Custodian."

4 Do you see that?

5 **A.** Sorry. Is that page 11?

6 **Q.** Yes, sir. Page 11, Interrogatory Number 4.

7 **A.** Okay. Yes, I'm there now.

8 **Q.** Okay. And if you look at page 12, which is the end of  
9 this response, it says (as read):

10 ". . . Google responds that the start and end  
11 dates for each legal hold Custodians received in this  
12 litigation are set forth in Exhibit 'B.'"

13 **MS. CHIU:** Your Honor, I object to this line of  
14 questioning. Mr. Rope just testified that he was not involved  
15 in preparing or doing the investigations for these responses,  
16 and so there's no foundation for him to confirm the information  
17 in this document.

18 **MS. WEINSTEIN:** These are Google's sworn interrogatory  
19 responses. And this is, I think, going to be helpful to  
20 questions Your Honor was asking about who was on hold and who  
21 preserved chats.

22 **THE COURT:** Well, it will only be helpful if he actually  
23 knows. So you can try.

24 **BY MS. WEINSTEIN:**

25 **Q.** Do you have any reason to believe that the sworn

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1 interrogatory responses that Google submitted are incorrect,  
2 Mr. Rope?

3 **A.** I don't know that I've reviewed these before, but I don't  
4 have any reason to doubt that what Google would submit would be  
5 accurate.

6 **Q.** Okay. It's not Google's ordinary practice to submit  
7 inaccurate things to the Court, is it?

8 **MS. CHIU:** Objection, Your Honor. Argumentative.

9 **THE COURT:** Overruled.

10 **THE WITNESS:** I will say, as part of my work, I've seen  
11 interrogatory responses before, and I know that sometimes  
12 information is revised when we find additional information.

13 I don't have any reason to believe that our legal team or  
14 anybody would submit inaccurate information.

15 **BY MS. WEINSTEIN:**

16 **Q.** Are you unwilling to tell me that the information in here  
17 is accurate to the best of your knowledge?

18 **THE COURT:** I think he's saying he doesn't know.

19 **MS. WEINSTEIN:** Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

20 **Q.** So Exhibit B is --

21 **THE COURT:** He doesn't know, but he doesn't want to hang  
22 his colleagues out to dry.

23 (Laughter.)

24 **MS. WEINSTEIN:** That's evident.

25 **Q.** So Exhibit B states the individuals that are on hold and

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1 the dates on the hold. If you want to turn to it, you're more  
2 than welcome to do so. Is that correct to the best of your  
3 knowledge?

4 **A.** Okay. Exhibit B. Yes.

5 **Q.** Okay. If you go back to page 13, this is Interrogatory  
6 Number 5, it states (as read):

7 "For each Custodian, state whether during the  
8 time periods for the Custodian identified in response  
9 to Interrogatory Number 4, the Custodian preserved  
10 any Google Chats by enabling a history function or  
11 turning off an auto-delete function."

12 You see that?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** Okay. On page 14, midway through -- this is lines 7 and  
15 8 -- the response refers to Exhibit C of this interrogatory.

16 **A.** Yes, I see that.

17 **Q.** Okay. If you turn to Exhibit C, you'll see that it lists  
18 11 individuals.

19 **A.** Yes, I see 11 individuals listed there.

20 **Q.** So there are 11 of the 37 custodians who ever recalled  
21 turning their history on on Chat?

22 **MS. CHIU:** Your Honor, we renew our objection. Mr. Rope  
23 has already testified he's not familiar with the contents of  
24 these responses. And at this point, I think he's simply  
25 reading them into the record, which Your Honor is capable of

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1 doing, as are any of us.

2 **THE COURT:** Well, we're here now, but there is a point to  
3 that. But I understand what you're doing.

4 Okay. So let me just be clear. So you're saying that  
5 Exhibit C is Google's sworn representation that out of the  
6 40 custodians -- is that what you're saying?

7 **MS. WEINSTEIN:** 37, Your Honor, but, yes.

8 **THE COURT:** Not out of the 360 hold recipients, but just  
9 out of the 37 or so custodians, only these individuals  
10 preserved their chats?

11 **MS. WEINSTEIN:** Only these 11 preserved Google Chats by  
12 turning history on ever.

13 **THE COURT:** All right.

14 **MS. CHIU:** Your Honor, I don't think that's a fair  
15 interpretation of the response.

16 **THE COURT:** Well, I'll read the response. Okay.

17 Okay. Anything else for this witness?

18 **MS. WEINSTEIN:** Yes, Your Honor. Just very briefly, if I  
19 could.

20 **Q.** Sir, you're not on the product team responsible for Chat,  
21 are you?

22 **A.** No.

23 **Q.** And you don't have any degrees in computer science?

24 **A.** No.

25 **Q.** Do you know if anybody from the Chat product team is

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1 present in the courtroom today?

2 A. I don't know.

3 Q. Okay. Google issued its first set of legal hold notices  
4 in connection with this litigation in September 2020, didn't  
5 it?

6 A. Yes, that's my understanding.

7 Q. That's what it says in your declaration, right,  
8 paragraph 11?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was the September 2020 hold notice the first hold notice  
11 Google issued in response to allegations concerning the  
12 Play Store?

13 A. I -- I don't know. I mean, there could be many other  
14 matters that involved the Play Store. I'm not sure.

15 It's my understanding that this was the first set of hold  
16 notices issued in relation to this particular matter.

17 Q. And you know that Google received a civil investigative  
18 demand from the Department of Justice in 2019; correct?

19 A. I'm -- I don't know the date of that, no.

20 Q. So you don't know that that CID covered Google's conduct  
21 with respect to the Play Store?

22 A. I don't remember hearing about that matter. I'm not sure.

23 Q. You don't remember? Okay. Let me see if I can refresh  
24 your recollection.

25 Please give a copy to counsel.

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1 This is a copy of the civil investigative demand issued by  
2 the Department of Justice to Google dated October 7th, 2019.  
3 Does this document refresh your recollection regarding whether  
4 such a CID was issued?

5 **MS. CHIU:** Your Honor, we object. This document was not  
6 on the exhibit list for this hearing that was submitted before  
7 today, and we object to counsel using it.

8 **MS. WEINSTEIN:** As counsel knows, both sides reserved the  
9 right to not include documents in their exhibit list if they  
10 were solely going to be used to impeach or refresh  
11 recollection.

12 **THE COURT:** Let's hear what the question is; then I'll  
13 decide.

14 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Your Honor, I was the one who was party to  
15 that agreement, and that is not what happened here.

16 And this isn't rebuttal. It's a guy who says, "I didn't  
17 remember."

18 **MS. WEINSTEIN:** It's refreshing his recollection.

19 **MR. POMERANTZ:** They know what rebuttal or impeachment is,  
20 and this is not -- we clearly had an understanding. And,  
21 actually, I appreciated the good faith they -- I thought they  
22 entered into here because they gave us a long list of exhibits  
23 that they actually ended up using. Every single exhibit that  
24 was used with the other two witnesses was disclosed to us on  
25 the list.



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1           It's just not fair to start dumping documents here and  
2           calling them rebuttal or impeachment. That was not the deal we  
3           had.

4           **THE COURT:** Let me -- what is the question?

5           **MS. WEINSTEIN:** I said it was to refresh his recollection.  
6           Both sides expressly reserved that right. And, of course, this  
7           is a good faith --

8           **THE COURT:** The question is, did you know --

9           **MS. WEINSTEIN:** The question is whether this refreshes his  
10          recollection that the DOJ issued a civil investigative demand  
11          to Google in October 2019 concerning the Play Store.

12          **MR. POMERANTZ:** Your Honor, refreshing recollection never  
13          came up in the conversations that I had with them.

14          **THE COURT:** Well, okay.

15          Does this refresh your recollection about a CID that  
16          Google got?

17          **THE WITNESS:** I mean, I can read the -- read the document.  
18          I don't recall seeing this.

19          **THE COURT:** Is it triggering any memories of being  
20          involved in this?

21          **THE WITNESS:** I don't recall ever seeing this -- this  
22          particular document.

23          **THE COURT:** Okay. Any other questions? We do have to  
24          wrap it up.

25          **MS. WEINSTEIN:** Yes, Your Honor. Just very briefly, a few

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1 more questions, not on any documents.

2 You can set this one aside, Your Honor -- or, I'm sorry --  
3 Mr. Rope.

4 **Q.** Mr. Rope, I'm going to ask you a few questions about  
5 preservation of chats. I'm talking about off-the-record chats,  
6 not threaded rooms or spaces. You understand?

7 **A.** Yes.

8 **Q.** Okay. Did a Google administrator turn history on for any  
9 employees in response to the CID I just showed you, if you  
10 know?

11 **A.** I don't know.

12 **Q.** Did a Google administrator turn history on for any  
13 employees after Epic served its complaint in this case?

14 **A.** I don't know.

15 **Q.** Did a Google administrator turn history on for any  
16 employees after the consumer class served its complaint?

17 **A.** No, I don't know.

18 **Q.** How about after the states filed their complaint?

19 **A.** I don't know.

20 **Q.** To this day, has a Google administrator turned history on  
21 for any of the Google employees subject to a litigation hold  
22 for this matter?

23 **A.** Not that I'm aware of. I don't know.

24 **MS. WEINSTEIN:** Thank you.

25 No further questions.

## PROCEEDINGS

1       **THE COURT:** Okay. Here's what I would like to do. I  
2 actually think I need to hear a little bit more.

3       I'm going to put this in the minute order, but I would  
4 like to have answers to the following questions.

5       Number one, how many --

6       I'm sorry. You can step down. Be careful on the way  
7 down.

8                               (Witness excused.)

9       **THE COURT:** Number one, how many of the Google individuals  
10 who received a litigation hold elected to preserve their chats?  
11 So we've heard testimony there are about 360 people who got the  
12 hold notice. How many of those people actually preserved their  
13 chats?

14       If it's possible -- meaning not too much work. If it's  
15 some work, that's okay, but not too much work -- when did those  
16 individuals elect to start preserving their chats, by date?

17       I'd also like to know that for those people who did elect  
18 to preserve their chats, did they stop at any point? And if  
19 so, when?

20       I'd like to know has there been any case -- any case -- in  
21 which Google has been a party in the last five years where the  
22 company has systematically preserved chats or prevented  
23 deletions of chats or suspended -- turned history on -- however  
24 you want to put it -- I want to know if there's been any case  
25 in the United States in the last five years where Google has

## PROCEEDINGS

1 preserved the chats systematically and not just left it up to  
2 individual users to make their own call. So that's what -- I  
3 need more on that.

4 If you can present that in a written form, that's fine.  
5 If you want to bring somebody in for further testimony, that's  
6 fine.

7 I do want to have a more expanded opportunity for closing.  
8 Let me just give you some initial thoughts. All right? These  
9 are all tentative thoughts. It's a little more than what I  
10 typically say of "speaking among friends," but it's by no means  
11 a finding and I could very well change my thinking on it,  
12 depending on how we go.

13 But I'll tell you where I am right now. And that is,  
14 I think there's little doubt on the evidence that we've heard  
15 so far that Chat, Google's Chat function could, in fact, have  
16 contained evidence relevant, as "relevance" is defined in the  
17 Federal Rules of Evidence, to this case.

18 I think the evidence also shows that Google did not  
19 systematically preserve those chats but, instead, left the  
20 preservation of chats to the discretion of each individual who  
21 received a hold notice.

22 It also is clear to me from the evidence that Google never  
23 monitored the chats to see if relevant evidence was possibly  
24 being lost.

25 I'm concerned about all this for a variety of reasons, but

## PROCEEDINGS

1 one of them is, at our very first case management conference in  
2 October of 2020, Docket Number 45, Google represented to me  
3 that it had taken all appropriate steps to preserve all  
4 evidence relevant to the issues reasonably evident in this  
5 action. I'm finding that representation to the Court to be  
6 hard to square with what appears to have been failure to  
7 preserve the chats. So I'd like to hear more about whether  
8 that representation was, in fact, accurate or not.

9 I also want to hear about when the chat issue first came  
10 up. Now, this is the first I'm hearing about it. I don't know  
11 when it came up between the parties. But I have to say, a good  
12 argument can be made that if Google didn't intend to preserve  
13 the chats, they should have told me about that in October of  
14 2020. We could have had a much better discussion about why and  
15 what you're going to do and burden and everything else. I  
16 don't recall that happening. Now, maybe it did, and you can  
17 help me figure that out, but I don't recall that happening.

18 At the very least, you should have shared that with your  
19 colleagues across the aisle and had a discussion with them  
20 because they're a stakeholder in the collection of that  
21 evidence. I don't believe that happened either. So I want to  
22 hear more about that.

23 Now, I also want to hear, assuming I stick with those  
24 tentative impressions, what the remedy is going to be. Now,  
25 I'll just tell you, think of it as a U-curve, U-shaped curve.

## PROCEEDINGS

1 The 10 percent side that says, "You win by default, plaintiffs"  
2 is just not going to happen. All right? That's not going to  
3 happen. So don't even propose that to me. The next 10 percent  
4 of just inviting the jury to conclude that Google's guilty  
5 because they didn't produce chats is not going to happen. I'm  
6 not going to do that.

7 On the other hand, I'm not going to let -- assuming I  
8 stick with these tentative conclusions, I'm not going to let  
9 Google get away with this is. There is going to be a  
10 substantial trial-related penalty. Now, what that is, I don't  
11 know. I'm thinking purely off the top of my head. Here are  
12 some options that I have considered.

13 Well, you know what? I'm not going to do that.

14 I want you to tell me, in the first instance, what you  
15 think an appropriate remedy is. Now, you have to put some  
16 specificity on it. Just saying, "Oh, you know, the general  
17 principles of FRCP 37(e)(2)," that's not going to help me. You  
18 need to tell me exactly what you would like to have done in  
19 this case.

20 As I said, this is a sizable, important, complicated  
21 antitrust case. I'm not going to give an invitation to the  
22 jury to decide it all on the basis of missing chats. It's just  
23 not fair. I think that could be a due process violation.

24 The reason I say that is, this is going to be a challenge  
25 for the jury. I have a hundred percent confidence in juries.

## PROCEEDINGS

1 I embrace them, as all of my trial court judge colleagues do.  
2 But it's going to be too tempting, in my view, for a jury to  
3 say: Well, let's not puzzle out all the expert evidence, all  
4 the documentary evidence and everything else. Judge said if we  
5 think they didn't produce something, we can conclude that  
6 they're guilty.

7 I'm not going to do that. That's just too tempting.

8 On the other hand, maybe it's fair -- well, all right.  
9 I'll tell you what I'm thinking -- maybe it's fair that  
10 plaintiffs get to examine witnesses at trial in front of the  
11 jury about the failure to preserve chats. Okay? I'm not going  
12 to give an adverse inference, but maybe the jury should hear  
13 about that. Maybe that's the penalty that would fit the case.

14 Another option is Google is precluded from arguing there's  
15 no evidence for X, for example, on summary judgment or maybe in  
16 closing or opening statement to the jury, since Google, if I  
17 ultimately conclude this -- and I haven't yet -- but if I  
18 ultimately conclude this, that Google, in fact, suppressed  
19 potentially relevant evidence, it's not fair to allow them to  
20 say, "Well, the plaintiffs never showed you evidence of X."  
21 That's partly attributable to the fact they didn't produce the  
22 evidence.

23 So these are the things that I'm thinking about. I'm  
24 looking forward to your guidance.

25 When would you like to meet again? I would be happy to do

## PROCEEDINGS

1 it again next week. Now that the ball is rolling, I don't want  
2 to derail it too much. But what do you all think about that?

3 And I am going to extend your dates. I know I promised to  
4 talk about trial dates. Everyone's going to get more time.  
5 I'm probably going to do an October trial. Okay? I'm just  
6 jam-packed between whatever this first date was and October.  
7 So maybe, like, I think September 25th is the date I had in  
8 mind.

9 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I'm sorry, Your Honor?

10 **THE COURT:** September 25.

11 **MR. POMERANTZ:** October 25?

12 **THE COURT:** September 25. Sorry.

13 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I would like to address that, but I did  
14 want to address the timing of when we all come back on this  
15 issue.

16 **THE COURT:** Sure. Go ahead.

17 **MR. POMERANTZ:** You gave us a bunch of questions, and  
18 I think I need to talk to my client --

19 **THE COURT:** Well, I'm going to put them on the --

20 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I do want to --

21 **THE COURT:** I might edit them a little bit; so don't talk  
22 to them yet. But I'll put it in the minute order. Okay?

23 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Okay. And whatever those questions are, I  
24 want to give you the answers. I want to give you complete  
25 answers.



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1       **THE COURT:** Good. I'd like to hear them.

2       **MR. POMERANTZ:** What I would like to be able to do is get  
3 the questions, talk to my client, talk to plaintiffs so that we  
4 can make -- find a time -- you know, dates that work for all of  
5 us, and give some proposed -- see what works on Your Honor's  
6 calendar.

7       **MR. SUMMERS:** Your Honor, if I may.

8       **THE COURT:** Sure.

9       **MR. SUMMERS:** I'm concerned this is the delay game. We'd  
10 like to proceed next week.

11       In terms of the answers, we already have most of the  
12 answers, in fact, I think all of them, in sum or substance.

13       They've already stated in their sworn interrogatory  
14 responses that they have no way technologically of determining  
15 when or if Chats is turned on or off for particular custodians.

16       They have told us that only 11 of the 37 actual key  
17 custodians ever, ever once, by their recollection, turned  
18 history on during the relevant time period. As to 26 of 37,  
19 it's undisputed they never did. And I have the video clips of  
20 others who will -- many, including some of the ones they say  
21 recall doing it.

22       Anyway, according to their rogs, they have to go by the  
23 recollection of these individuals. Maybe that's why they need  
24 to do a survey or some kind of e-survey for the 267 people.  
25 But there is really no evidence on some of these issues.

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1 As to when we raised this issue, it was April of 2021, and  
2 we got misdirection --

3 **THE COURT:** Let me just -- I really have to -- I have two  
4 minutes, literally. But just remind me how that came up on  
5 your end. How did you first --

6 **MR. SUMMERS:** We noticed a dearth of chats. We had heard,  
7 we saw references to chats. We couldn't find any chats.

8 We asked them: Where are the chats?

9 We got evasion. We got: Well, people -- these are  
10 automatically deleted; and until the litigation was filed,  
11 you're not going to see a lot of pre-litigation stuff.

12 That's the first response we got.

13 Then we said: Well, we're not seeing any post-litigation  
14 stuff.

15 **THE COURT:** Okay. I think you're winding up for a  
16 closing.

17 **MR. SUMMERS:** Yeah. But then they said -- but one more,  
18 Judge.

19 **THE COURT:** Hold on.

20 **MR. SUMMERS:** Then they said --

21 **THE COURT:** Hold on.

22 **MR. SUMMERS:** -- Technologically, we can't do it.

23 **THE COURT:** Wait, wait, wait, wait. Please, you're going  
24 to have to let me take the lead here.

25 But prior to your raising the issue, Google never came to

## PROCEEDINGS

1 plaintiffs first and said, "I want to talk with you" -- words  
2 to the effect of "We have this Chat thing. It's kind of a  
3 mess. I want to talk to you about it"?

4 They didn't say --

5 **MR. SUMMERS:** No. We got misdirection at every turn for  
6 months, if not over a year.

7 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Your Honor, again, we will -- you deserve  
8 the story here. We will give it to you.

9 I actually think that there's a lot of harsh terminology  
10 there that doesn't befit what actually ended up happening here.

11 All I'm saying is that Your Honor --

12 **THE COURT:** Mr. Pomerantz, just to jump in, I have to  
13 say -- and I think you would appreciate this. I'm not going to  
14 ask you to take a position on that, but the best practice would  
15 have been to tell me at the first case management conference:  
16 We have this electronic body of documents and chats and e-mails  
17 and other stuff, and the chats are a problem. And here's why  
18 they're a problem: We've got a billion of them and it costs  
19 \$10 each, whatever.

20 But it should not have come up at this late date in this  
21 context.

22 **MR. POMERANTZ:** Your Honor, I --

23 **THE COURT:** That's important to me because your case  
24 management statement -- which I don't believe you signed  
25 because I don't believe you were in the case at the time but

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1 somebody on your side did, on Google's behalf -- told me this  
2 situation was well in hand with respect to preservation.

3 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I understand, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** And I am going to be upset if that turns out  
5 to have been a misrepresentation to me.

6 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I understand.

7 **THE COURT:** It's one thing for the plaintiffs. It is  
8 another to misrepresent it to the United States District Court.

9 But I'm not taking argument on that now. I am just going  
10 to hear about it later. I need a date. Let's just quickly  
11 pick a date.

12 You said you want to meet and confer, Mr. Pomerantz?

13 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I want two things. Your Honor is thinking  
14 about some pretty strong remedies here.

15 **THE COURT:** Maybe not. You have a chance to tell me --

16 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I appreciate that because there's a lot we  
17 have to say that wasn't said in the courtroom here today.

18 **THE COURT:** Well, we're going to have a closing --

19 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I hear you.

20 **THE COURT:** -- and you can tell me all that.

21 And I do want --

22 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I just want to have enough time to answer  
23 your questions fully, and I don't think we should be rushed  
24 because Mr. Summers is excited to give you his closing  
25 argument.

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1       **THE COURT:** All right.

2       **MR. POMERANTZ:** I would like to be able to get back to you  
3 by -- what's today? Today's Thursday -- by Monday. Monday is  
4 a holiday. By Tuesday.

5       **THE COURT:** Tuesday is fine.

6       **MR. POMERANTZ:** And we will tell you when we will be  
7 ready, and then you can pick whatever date works for  
8 Your Honor.

9       **THE COURT:** That's fine. But I want it by the end of the  
10 month. Okay?

11       **MR. POMERANTZ:** Yeah, for sure.

12       **THE COURT:** Not March.

13       **MR. POMERANTZ:** No, I don't want -- listen, this has been  
14 a lot of work for all of us. I'd like to get this resolved too  
15 because it's a very important case that has to go forward. And  
16 as Your Honor is going to see, there's plenty of --

17       **THE COURT:** Mr. Pomerantz, this is exactly my point. It's  
18 been a lot of work for me and my chambers too.

19       **MR. POMERANTZ:** And I apologize for that.

20       **THE COURT:** I am mystified about why this sideshow is even  
21 happening when someone just should have taken a minute in  
22 October of 2020 and said, "Your Honor, we need some guidance on  
23 chats." That didn't happen, and it's on you. Not you  
24 personally, not your firm, but whoever was representing Google.  
25 And I do fault them for that.

## PROCEEDINGS

1       **MR. POMERANTZ:** I understand.

2       **THE COURT:** Regardless of how this turns out, I do fault  
3 them for that --

4       **MR. POMERANTZ:** We want --

5       **THE COURT:** -- particularly after telling me everything  
6 was well in hand.

7       **MR. POMERANTZ:** I know it's important.

8       **THE COURT:** That's where I'm coming from. And we'll have  
9 a full chance to discuss it.

10       That's all I can do for you right now. I have to go join  
11 my colleague.

12       **MR. POMERANTZ:** Trial date.

13       **THE COURT:** Thank you all for coming in. It was actually  
14 quite productive.

15       **MR. POMERANTZ:** Can I say one thing about trial date?

16       **THE COURT:** Oh, yes. Trial date, yeah.

17       **MR. POMERANTZ:** I'm sorry.

18       **THE COURT:** Go ahead, yeah.

19       **MR. POMERANTZ:** So Google has a case brought by  
20 the Department of Justice and, actually, some of the states  
21 here that starts trial on September 12th. There are --

22       **THE COURT:** Oh.

23       **MR. POMERANTZ:** -- overlapping witnesses.

24       **THE COURT:** Where?

25       **MR. POMERANTZ:** In Washington, D.C. It's in front of

## PROCEEDINGS

1 Judge Mehta in Washington, D.C.

2 There are overlapping witnesses. There's overlapping  
3 in-house counsel. We would ask that if you're going to move it  
4 to September, that you move it to at least mid-October or end  
5 of October because that trial -- they haven't actually given a  
6 specific estimate, but they're estimating four to six weeks.

7 **THE COURT:** I tell you what. You discuss that.

8 I just have one question. Is anything that happened there  
9 going to be preclusive in any way here?

10 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I think they're different issues.

11 **THE COURT:** Totally different?

12 **MR. POMERANTZ:** I think so, yes, Your Honor.

13 **MR. GLACKIN:** I don't know the answer to that question.  
14 Brendan Glackin for the states.

15 I want to point out also, Your Honor, that that trial is a  
16 bench trial, not a jury trial. And so there will be  
17 considerably more flexibility in the presentation of evidence  
18 and witnesses, I would expect.

19 **THE COURT:** It also makes it more likely it's going to  
20 stick as a trial date. I'll just tell you that.

21 **MR. POMERANTZ:** It's been there since the very beginning,  
22 Your Honor. And I did talk to the outside counsel for Google  
23 in that case. It's not me. None of the lawyers here are  
24 involved. But I do -- we do request --

25 **THE COURT:** Well, add that to --

## PROCEEDINGS

1       **MR. POMERANTZ:** -- the second week of October.

2       **THE COURT:** Add that to your discussion. Okay?

3       **MR. POMERANTZ:** We'll talk to them about it.

4       **THE COURT:** With respect to trial date.

5       **MR. POMERANTZ:** Thank you, Your Honor.

6       **THE COURT:** I can do that.

7       Okay. Thanks so much, and hope to see you soon.

8       **THE CLERK:** All rise. Court is in recess.

9                   (Proceedings adjourned at 3:45 p.m.)

10  
11                   **CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER**

12               I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript  
13       from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

14  
15       DATE: Saturday, January 14, 2023

16  
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18

19                   \_\_\_\_\_  
20       Ana Dub, CSR No. 7445, RDR, RMR, CRR, CCRR, CRG, CCG  
21               Official United States Reporter  
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